

Incident prompt enquiry by RFU

Heseltine 'glamour without substance'

## Thatcher ready for resolute counter-attack

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ROSS TIEMAN

DOUGLAS Hurd yesterday intensified his efforts to calm Tory jitters over Europe by urging his colleagues not to frighten themselves with "ogres" as they contemplated moves towards closer EC integration.

His remarks came as Margaret Thatcher consulted party managers about the threat to her position and her government's authority posed by Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation and Michael Heseltine's assault on the "crisis of confidence" in her leadership.

Later, senior cabinet sources emphasised Mrs Thatcher's determination to face down any challenge. They said that Mrs Thatcher was in resolute, robust and firm mood and had no intention of letting Mr Heseltine succeed her. The prime minister is understood to have told her senior colleagues that she regards Mr Heseltine as "glamour without substance". She also believes that he would pursue an industrial policy more interventionist than that favoured by Tony Benn, the former Labour industry secretary.

Mrs Thatcher was said to be greatly heartened by the strong

support she was receiving from Mr Hurd, the foreign secretary, and John Major, the chancellor, in steering the party through the choppy waters of European policy.

The sources promised a combative performance by the prime minister in tomorrow's debate on the Queen's Speech. Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, would be the main target of her attack as she sought to demonstrate that the real divisions over European policy lie in opposition, not government ranks.

Mr Hurd maintained his delicate balancing act when he addressed the CBI in Glasgow. He assured backbenchers that the government remained determined to fight for British interests and had no intention of accepting the imposition of a single currency and a central European bank.

"There is no dread conspiracy against us," he said. "There is simply an argument, and no reason why we should be scared or defeated in that argument. We must continue to fight our corner for British interests. But we can do that without frightening ourselves with ogres."

The foreign secretary's comments will be seen in some quarters as an implied criticism of Mrs Thatcher's past warnings about the folly and nightmare of a united states of Europe. However, his carefully-woven text bridged much of the gap between the warring factions in the party.

At the same time, senior ministers continued to rally to the prime minister's side, stepping up their assault on Mr Heseltine's criticisms in a letter to his constituency chairman, John Wakeham, the energy secretary, said that to suggest that men like Mr Hurd and Mr Major were wimps not prepared to stand up for themselves was both "insulting and unworthy".

"It is clear from anyone who is actually in contact with the party that the last thing they want is a leadership election. The party is overwhelmingly behind the prime minister and a period of calm and resolu-

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Woodrow Wyatt, page 14  
CBI attack, page 23



## Jail task force for under-21s sought

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A TASK force should be created to tackle the scandalous poverty of the regime at Armley jail in Leeds and to see that remain inmates aged under 21 are no longer housed there, the prisons inspectorate recommends today in its most damning report it has produced on a jail.

The inspectorate, which submitted its conclusions on March 23, also accuses the Home Office of siting on the report. No satisfactory explanation had been given for the delay of more than seven months in its publication, it says.

Describing the Victorian-built jail as grossly overcrowded, the prisons watchdog claims that the department's main concern is to pack as many offenders as possible into the establishment. As a result, the regime is more than usually sparse, providing a ready explanation for the prison's high suicide rate.

The report's outspoken tone and criticism of the delayed publication has embarrassed

Continued on page 22, col 1

## Tongue-tied by America's language police

From CHARLES BRENNER  
IN NEW YORK

WHAT is wrong with this sentence? "A burly white man bought some fried chicken and was gyped by a glamorous waitress." By pronouncing these words, you have committed no fewer than four offences of racism and three of sexism, according to the canons of America's new language police.

Most of the words in that sentence have been proscribed in a glossary issued by the journalism school at the University of Missouri. Journalists and writers should avoid them, it said "in order to avoid offending and perpetuating stereotypes". The Missouri glossary has provided an easy target for those who believe that American English is being sapped by a new plague of euphemisms.

For a start, "burly" is "an adjective

too often associated with large black men, implying ignorance", the glossary says. Fried chicken is "a loaded phrase when used carelessly" because it is often used to refer to the cuisine of black people. To "gyp" someone is to insult gypsies, just as to "go Dutch" is to insult citizens of The Netherlands, it says. A novice at the art of detecting sexist thought crime would know that "glamorous waitress" is taboo, but even if you had called your "server" a "dear" person, that would have been out since dear is "a term of endearment objectionable" to some women.

The exclamation "Ugh!" is "highly offensive" in any context because it denotes the stereotype of the American Indian.

Among the doctines of the politically correct now spreading outward from America's academic world, it is

becoming offensive to use the term "white" to refer to the species the police define as "caucasians". This mirrors the move away from "black" by people who prefer the expressions "African-American". Instead of white, you are now advised to say "non-African-American" or "non-American-Indian". At the worst, "European-American" is acceptable.

Just as the term "white" is held to carry too much resonance of the "racist power structure" that founded and runs the US, so "men" implies sexism. Feminists are reluctant to use the term, preferring "male". Lest anyone imagine this usage is restricted to the loonier reaches of academia, the lead editorial in *The New York Times* yesterday referred to the need to train "male adults" as teachers.

Few American journalists now dare

speak or write the word "fat" or "handicapped" for fear of a deluge of complaint from aggrieved lobbies. If any reference is to be made to the "non-slim", words such as "heavy" and "busky" are usually used. A handicapped person is more correctly described as "challenged" or "special". In similar vein, nobody may be described as old; the Missouri professors caution against "senior citizen", itself a euphemism of fairly recent coinage.

Mike Royko, an influential non-young European-American columnist at the *Chicago Tribune* is leading a counter-offensive. "Maybe it's time to wave the white flag," he wrote. "The age of super-sensitivity is crushing me. Fried chicken, fried chicken, fried chicken. I said it and I'm glad. Sue me," he wrote.



Mission to Iraq: Carol Cox (left) and Dorothy Goodwin, who are planning to ask President Saddam personally to free their hostage husbands

## Confusion over Soviet reforms

FROM MARY DEEVES IN MOSCOW

LESS than three weeks after President Gorbachev presented the Soviet parliament to accept his "General Guidelines" for economic reform the economy is a picture of confusion with the plan under fire from its own authors.

The measures adopted by the Russian Federation, now five days into the implementation of its accelerated "500-day" programme, are also unpromising and a spate of additional financial provisions enacted by presidential decree has only added to the confusion and general ill-

Such is the criticism of Mr Gorbachev and the fears for the economy that there are hints that tougher measures may be needed, including control of imports by the army or the KGB.

One of the hardest blows against Mr Gorbachev came at the weekend when *Komsomolskaya Pravda* published an open letter whose signatories included Stanislav Shatalin and Grigori Yavlinski, co-authors of the rapid "500-day" programme, as well as Nikolai Petrakov, an economic advisor to Mr Gorbachev's personal staff.

They complained that the president's "General Guidelines" were nowhere near

decisive enough and that the "500-day" programme embarked on by the Russian Federation on November 1, although correct in conception, would fail because it was being implemented late and in

being implemented late and in

the quiet revolution, page 13

## Acland fights hunt ban

By JOHN YOUNG

SIR Richard Acland says in a letter to *The Times* today that he may seek legal advice on how to prevent the National Trust from enforcing a ban on deer hunting on land he gave to the trust in 1944.

Sir Richard, now aged 83, accompanied his gift with a memorandum indicating that he wished deer hunting to continue, and his letter makes it clear that his view remains unaltered.

Trust decision, page 3  
Diary, page 14  
Letters, page 15

## George Cross for Ulster bomb hero

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE George Cross has been awarded for the second time for 11 years to an army bomb disposal officer who tried to defuse a six-tube mortar device in a van parked near a hospital in London yesterday in October last year.

Warrant Officer (1) Barry Johnson, aged 38, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, should have used remotely-controlled equipment. He decided, however, that this would have posed too great a risk as one of the mortars could have been launched.

WO1 Johnson, aware of the danger to civilian lives, decided to remove the bombs from their firing tubes and dismantle them by hand. With the help of an assistant, the firing tubes were carefully moved from the back of the vehicle and placed on the ground. As the next stage was extremely hazardous, he sent his assistant back behind cover and continued the disarming procedure alone.

While dismantling the last bomb, it exploded, causing serious injury to his face and legs. He was blinded by the fragments and thrown across the road by the blast. Although in great pain he refused to be evacuated until he had briefed his assistant so the operation could be safely completed.

The quiet revolution, page 13

## Hostages' wives told not to moan

By RAY CLANCY

THE wives of two British hostages held in Iraq last night renewed their determination to go to Baghdad and free their husbands despite being told by a Conservative MP that they should stop moaning and adopt a stiff upper lip.

Both women dismissed criticism from Sir John Stokes, the MP for Hollesway and Stowbridge, who said yesterday that mothers of the hostages should stop moaning and keep quiet in the interest of the nation.

"I am sick and tired of the mewing and puking of the relatives of hostages in the Gulf and of some of the hostages themselves," Sir John said. "During the last war we never heard so many widows. Cannot these people keep a stiff upper lip and think of the country as a whole instead of their own personal concerns which are perfectly understandable but which should be kept to themselves?"

"Our husbands are victims of innocent circumstance. We decided to remove the bombs from their firing tubes and dismantle them by hand. With the help of an assistant, the firing tubes were carefully moved from the back of the vehicle and placed on the ground. As the next stage was extremely hazardous, he sent his assistant back behind cover and continued the disarming procedure alone.

"WO1 Johnson, aware of the danger to civilian lives, decided to remove the bombs from their firing tubes and dismantle them by hand. With the help of an assistant, the firing tubes were carefully moved from the back of the vehicle and placed on the ground. As the next stage was extremely hazardous, he sent his assistant back behind cover and continued the disarming procedure alone.

"We are not particularly brave, we are not politicians or diplomats. In fact we are

hostage bittersweet, page 10  
Diary, page 14  
Options reviewed, page 22

## LOOK, A GIFT HORSE

By RAY CLANCY

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# Fair trading office to study merger of Sky and BSB

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Office of Fair Trading is to investigate the controversial merger between Sky Television and British Satellite Broadcasting after calls over the weekend for the deal to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The merger comes under the routine scrutiny of the OFT on the basis that it involves a company (BSB) with assets of over £30 million, an OFT spokesman said. The OFT may recommend a reference to the MMC if it believes that the UK satellite television dominance of the new British Sky Broadcasting could lead to abuse.

Mark Fisher, shadow arts minister, who yesterday attacked BSB for violating the terms of its franchise without prior IBA consultation and deemed the merger "a breach

of the spirit and letter of the broadcasting act", welcomed the OFT enquiry but called for a general MMC investigation into overlapping newspaper and television ownership.

However, David Mellor, the arts minister and responsible for the broadcasting act, said: "They are commercial activities and however much we think in parliament call the shots, we don't. The market calls the shots."

If British Sky Broadcasting removed itself from the ISA-allocated high-power Marco Polo satellite, "then the question is whether the rules we have set out for the Astra satellite need to be changed", he said. Sky, which broadcasts via the Luxembourg-based Astra satellite, is currently exempted from UK ownership restrictions because it is

classed as non-domestic.

"It is far too early to say if that will be the case, but all the ownership restrictions will be in secondary legislation in order for necessary adjustments to be made," said Mr Mellor, responsible for secondary legislation soon to be introduced on cross-ownership.

Senior IBA officials, who yesterday discussed whether BSB has violated its contract and whether the deal will contravene restrictions in the act on non-EC and cross-media ownership, said that it would take several days to reach a decision. It is to talk with BSB this week.

David Glencross, chief executive of the shadow Independent Television Commission, which is to replace the IBA in January, said that the IBA's consent was needed for any proposed transfer of BSB's direct broadcasting by satellite (DBS) contract or for changes in BSB's ownership.

"It is one thing for the shareholders of BSB to conclude that they can no longer support the losses that are being incurred," Mr Glencross said. "It is quite another for them to imagine they can transfer or share the contract with whoever they choose. The DBS contract is not theirs to dispose of. It is the IBA's decision."

The broadcasting act prevented non-EC control, as well as owners of non-domestic satellite services, such as Sky, from owning more than 20 per cent of domestic satellite services, such as BSB, Mr Glencross said.

Leading article, page 15

## Student loan numbers double

By JOHN O'LEARY  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
CORRESPONDENT

THE number of students given loans under the government's scheme has doubled to 30,000 in a fortnight. The total is, however, only a tenth of the number expected by many universities and polytechnics in the first month of term.

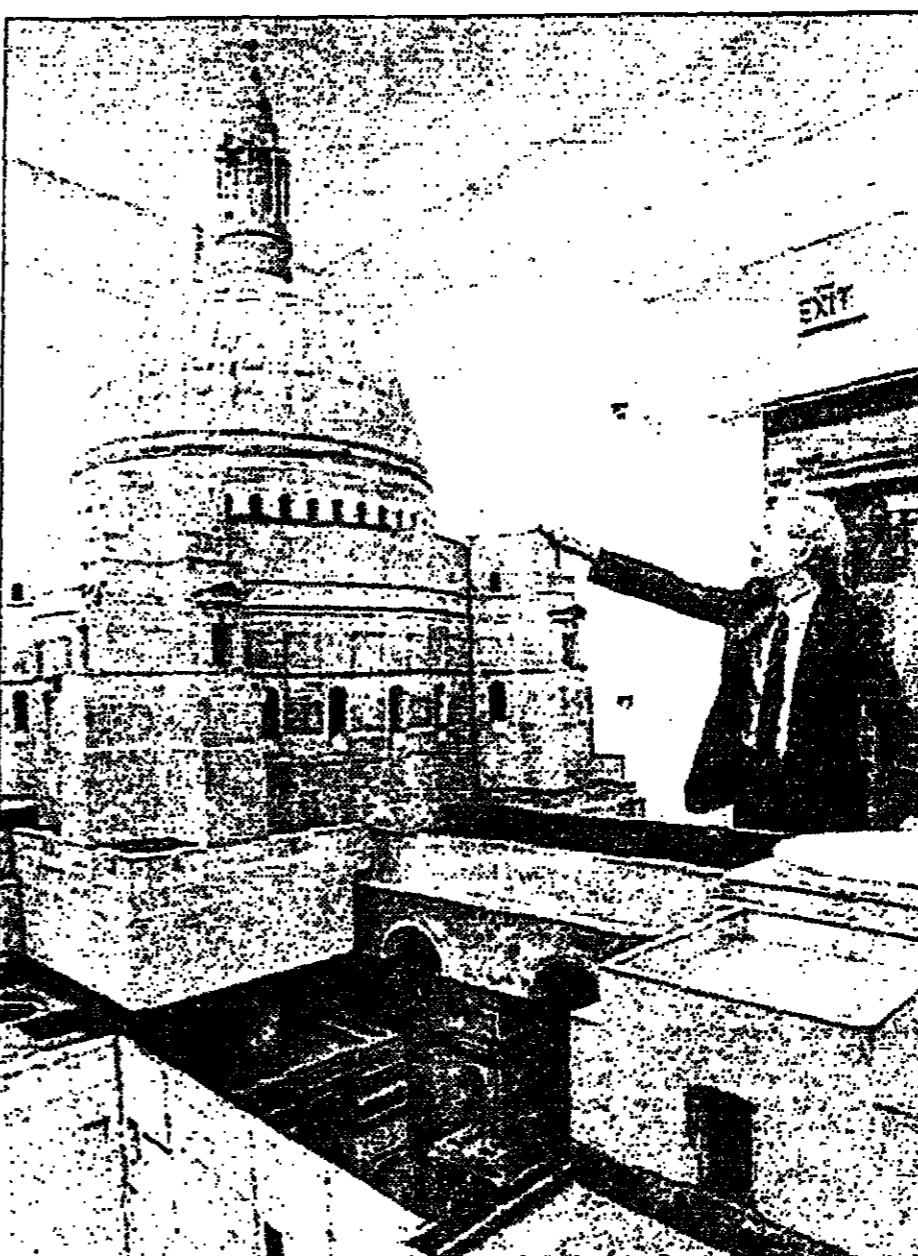
Extra staff taken on by the institutions to process applications have been transferred to other work because the expected rush has failed to materialise. Some administrators blamed the Student Loans Company for unrealistic forecasts but the company denied responsibility.

Ron Harrison, chief executive of the loans company, is standing by his prediction that up to 400,000 students will take out loans by the end of the academic year. He said applications were running at more than 2,000 a day.

The National Union of Students said that the slow start might be a reflection of students' financial position at the start of term rather than an indication that the scheme would collapse.

• Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, had his first public disagreement with all six teacher unions yesterday when he rejected their claims that there were 10,000 vacancies in schools in England and Wales and not the 1,400 claimed by the government.

Mr Clarke said his figure was correct, using the normal government definition of a permanent vacancy as one being unfilled for at least a term. The six unions said that almost half the vacancies were covered by fixed-term appointments and should not be taken into account when considering the number of vacant full-time posts.



Edward Morris, curator of fine art at the Walker Gallery in Liverpool, surveys a model of what could have become the city's third cathedral, joining the Anglican cathedral designed by Giles Gilbert Scott, or the modern Roman Catholic cathedral designed by Sir Frederick Gibberd. The model was designed by Sir Edward Lutyens and is 11ft high and 17ft long. However the model is in need of restoration and funds are being sought to raise the £70,000 that will be needed. It is estimated that it will take two skilled staff at the gallery five years to complete the work. The model was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1934, but after the war it was considered too expensive to build and only the crypt was built. The model was severely damaged while in store at the new Roman Catholic cathedral in 1974 and was presented to the gallery by the Archdiocese the following year. Mr Morris said: "It is a work of fine art, not a piece of precision engineering. The skills required are those of a sculptor or cabinet maker rather than those of a model maker. Lutyens' cathedral will never be built and no model of this splendour will ever be made again."

## Nine miles of slick as oil boat sinks

More than nine miles of the river Ceredigion and Haven estuary in west Wales was polluted by oil yesterday when a fuel storage boat sank at its moorings near Pembroke Dock (Nicholas Watt writes).

The Port Field went down as it was held up in the Govan boatyard in the estuary. A clean-up operation was launched to stop heavy fuel oil from spreading ashore.

Last night, slicks had appeared up the estuary at Neyland and Lawrence.

### Swiss 'mad cow'

The first known case on the Continent of "mad cow" disease has been found on a Swiss dairy farm. Christoph Rickenbach, deputy director of the Swiss federal office of veterinary affairs, said yesterday: "We are still tracing the origin of the animal, which was six years old but had been on that particular farm for only 12 months. We are certain, however, that it was not imported from Britain."

### Player charged

Kerry Dixon the Chelsea footballer was charged yesterday with the theft of £10,000. He was charged when he went to Luton police station in Bedfordshire to answer police bail granted after his arrest in a fraud investigation in September. Mr Dixon, aged 28, of Dunstable, was given unconditional bail to appear before the town's magistrates on November 27.

### Police chief

Charles Pollard is to be the new chief constable of the Thames Valley. Mr Pollard, aged 45, who is now deputy assistant commissioner in the Metropolitan Police, takes over the the country's biggest police force in January.

### Rape hunt clue



Police yesterday issued this artist's impression of a man seen running away from St Helier hospital, Carshalton, Surrey, after a girl aged 11 was raped in a children's ward last month. He is described as white, aged about 25, 5ft 9in tall, with black collar-length hair at the back and a long fringe. He was wearing a black sweatshirt, faded jeans and white trainers.

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## Pan Am official 'unaware of alert'

THE Pan Am official responsible for Flight 103 while it was on the ground at Heathrow airport told the Lockerbie enquiry yesterday that he had been unaware of two warnings on the night of the disaster.

Christopher Price, aged 45, an operations and ramp services superintendent, said that he had learnt of the warnings in January 1989 — weeks after the aircraft exploded with the loss of 270 lives. Mr Price, who was duty manager for the US-bound flight from Frankfurt on December 21 1988, said that he did not know at

the time of a warning that a bomb was in a Toshiba radio cassette.

He said that he had also been unaware that, on December 5, a caller to the US embassy in Helsinki had said that a woman would carry a bomb on board a Pan Am flight out of Frankfurt.

The enquiry heard that he had allowed Flight 103 to take off even though it was carrying the luggage of a passenger who had failed to turn up in time, and that he had not informed the aircraft captain of that fact. The enquiry continues

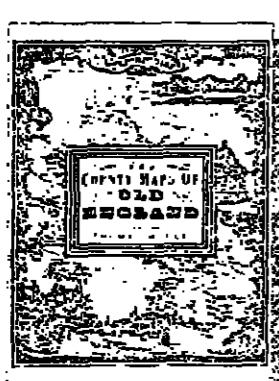
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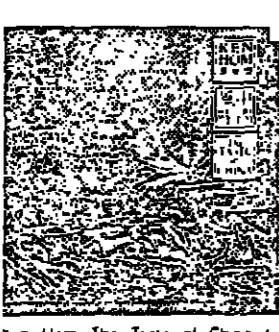
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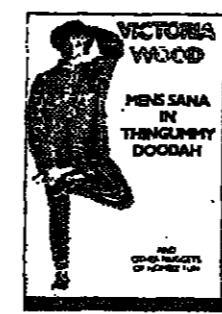
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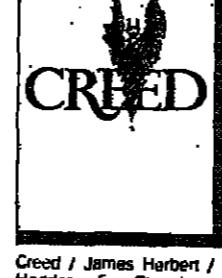
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## Funds crackdown 'would stop IRA'

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA's £5 million-a-year terrorist operations could be crippled by a government crackdown on its illegal fund-raising activities, a prominent Conservative MP says in a paper published today.

David Davis, MP for Bootle, says in the paper that concerted official action could halve the funds flowing into IRA coffers from a multitude of rackets, ranging from the west Belfast black cabs to cross-border smuggling and tax dodges.

A copy of Mr Davis's proposals to stem the IRA's cash flow has been passed to Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary. Yesterday, Mr Davis said that his proposals followed the grain of government thinking about the IRA. It is thought unlikely, however, that the updated emergency provisions bill, due to be announced by the Northern Ireland Office tomorrow in the Queen's Speech, will contain new measures aimed at tackling racketeering.

Mr Davis, parliamentary private secretary to Francis Maude, a right-wing junior Treasury minister, likens the IRA to the Mafia in the United States and says that the organisation increasingly resembles a gangster operation rather than a revolutionary one.

The difficulty lies in finding policies that harm the Provisionals without handing them propaganda victories, new recruits and new areas of support, he says.

Mr Davis estimates that the IRA raises £5.3 million a year to support its campaign of violence. Of that, £600,000 comes from drivers of black cabs of west Belfast; £750,000 from stolen or non-invoiced drink sold through some 30 republican drinking clubs in Belfast; £250,000 from gaming machines; £600,000 from pirate videos, smuggling and EC frauds; £500,000 from protection and extortion; £1 million from tax frauds; £200,000 from public collections; £100,000 from Noraid and other overseas fund-raising operations; and £1 million from legitimate business interests.

## Hunger striker's case tests extradition link to terror

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Brian Lenihan, the embattled Fianna Fail candidate in tomorrow's Irish presidential election, made his first campaign walkabout in Dublin last week after being dismissed from the cabinet, he was surrounded not by his supporters but by those who regard him and his party as traitors to the ideal of a free and unified Ireland.

Thousands turned out to greet the former deputy prime minister on O'Connell Street, one of Dublin's main thoroughfares, but members of Sinn Fein and the anti-extradition committee greeted him in a tight circle, chanting republican slogans and demanding the release of Dessie Ellis, a republican hunger striker facing extradition to Britain.

That confrontation tactic has been deliberately planned by Ellis's supporters, who are taking maximum political advantage of the coincidence of the hunger strike with the presidential election. Thursday will provide another opportunity for the campaign when Ellis, who by then will be on his thirtieth day without food in Portlaoise top security jail in Co Kildare, will appear at the Supreme Court in Dublin to hear his final appeal against extradition.

Ellis, aged 37, a former television technician from Finglas, in north Dublin, is determined to make that court appearance, whatever the state of his health. So far, according to his supporters, he has lost over two stone in weight. They say, however, as

do his family who come from a long republican tradition and have been vociferous in their support for Ellis that he remains as determined as ever to fast to the death to avoid what he believes will be an unfair trial in Britain leading to a certain life sentence. If the Supreme Court finds in favour of extradition, which lawyers believe it is likely to do, Ellis's sister Martha says he will take short cut to an agonising death.

Ellis has a long and complicated criminal history, which has included spells in custody in America, where he was a fugitive, deportation back to Ireland, and an eight-year sentence on explosives charges connected to offences in the republic, which he has just completed in Portlaoise.

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Ellis has claimed that he could not have had anything to do with the bombing campaign because he was in jail either in the United States or the Irish Republic at the time the alleged offences were committed.

The Irish government has made it clear that there will be no attempt to stop Ellis's extradition. At the weekend a government spokesman ruled out an intervention by John Murray, the Attorney General. "There will be no political interference. The case is a matter for the courts."



Ellis: his fingerprints on IRA cache, Yard says

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		Finance Charges	NIL	NIL
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# Sculptor blames 'ill-chosen' shows for snub on RA

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO AND SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SIR Anthony Caro, ranked as Britain's greatest living sculptor, last night blamed the Royal Academy's ill-chosen and poorly displayed summer exhibitions for his decision to turn down an invitation to become a Royal Academician.

Speaking in Tokyo, where he is to open four exhibitions of his work, Sir Anthony, aged 66, said: "I do not want to be in the RA. They put on wonderful shows in the winter. But the summer shows are a disgrace."

His remarks will deepen a rift in the London art establishment about the role of the RA and its Summer Show. Last night Roger de Grey, the RA president, disputed Sir Anthony's criticism. "All of Anthony's distinguished friends are represented in the Summer Exhibition and what he is saying is they are no good, which I am sure he does not mean. I think the Summer Exhibition is getting better and better, and it is completely unrecognisable now."

Controversy over membership of the RA has flared for much of this century. Patrick Heron and Francis Bacon both turned it down. David

Hockney, given his reputation as a scourge of the establishment, accepted. Henry Moore refused over the academy's failure to support Sir Jacob Epstein in 1935 when the British Medical Association defaced his work on its building in the Strand. Sicker resigned from the RA over it, and Moore only let bygones be bygones shortly before his death.

Sir Anthony, a pupil of Moore, was asked to accept election in June and told the RA council that he would decline after he had seen the standard of the exhibition. He asked: "What good would it do to put a piece of work I liked and respected in amongst a lot of pieces I didn't like and didn't respect?"

The problem is that the 80 Royal Academicians have first call on space in the exhibition. They can show six pieces each. Their submissions could be refused by the hanging committee in theory but in practice never are. Non-members can submit only three works. This year 808 non-academicians were shown against 398 RAs and Associate Royal Academicians, a small improvement on the previous year's ratio of 772 to 412.

Richard Cork, the art critic, says: "The sculpture section is very weak in the RA. It always lets you down. It is supposed to represent the best in modern art and it does not."

Many RAs argue that it is better to reform the system from within. Bryan Kneale, the former professor of sculpture at the RA Schools, was particularly disappointed not to have persuaded Sir Anthony. "We have all been trying to find ways of making the show better, maybe by having two, one for members and one for non-members alternating every other year."



Sir Anthony: "Summer shows are a disgrace"

## Iraqis fail in plea for 'supergun'

An attempt by the Iraqi government to challenge the seizure earlier this year of eight steel tubes allegedly destined to be made into a "supergun" was dismissed in the High Court in London yesterday. Mr Justice Nolan refused the Iraqi industry ministry leave to apply for a declaration that the seizure of the tubes by customs officers last April at Teesside, Cleveland, was unlawful and for an order for their return. He said that the appropriate way for Iraq to try to have the seizure set aside was to contest proceedings to validate it that Customs and Excise intended to start within a few weeks.

## Murder report

A Scotland Yard report on the murder in Kenya of the British tourist Julie Ward incriminates two rangers from the Masai Mara game park, according to a source close to the enquiry. The report, handed yesterday to Matthew Muli, Kenya's attorney-general, by the British High Commission, is said to show that Miss Ward had been at the rangers' compound after going missing in September 1988.

## Water bill rise

Water bills are likely to rise by more than 50 per cent above inflation during the next decade to cover the costs of improved quality, the Office of Water Services, the industry watchdog, said in London at the launch of a consultation paper yesterday. Ian Byatt, director-general of the OWS, said water services were becoming more expensive and new ways of paying for them had to be found.

## Opren delay

Judgment was reserved in the High Court in London yesterday in the test case in which 17 patients given the arthritis drug Opren are seeking the right to bring a damages action against the American pharmaceuticals company Eli Lilly.

## Sportsmen 'tricked by timeshare firm'

THE England footballer Glenn Hoddle yesterday described how he was promised a holiday in return for allowing his name to be used in timeshare advertisements. However, the Spanish villa he thought he was publicising did not exist.

Other sports stars, including the England football captain Gary Lineker, the jockey John Francome and the snooker player Willie Thorne, also appeared in advertisements, and the Harrington Grange company amassed more than £120,000 by selling shares to 40 investors, Southwark Crown Court was told.

The court was told that the

## Pressure on church to publish gay report

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

THE Church of England faces renewed pressure today to publish a widely leaked confidential report on homosexuality. A few days before the first meeting of the newly elected General Synod, homosexuals within the church have published their response to the report and call for each parish and diocese to adopt a "charter of rights" for homosexuals.

The church report, drawn up under the chairmanship of the Rev June Osborne, has been received by the House of Bishops and is being examined by a working party. A spokesman said: "We have no plans to authorise publication."

While most synod members remain officially in ignorance about the contents of the report, all have been sent *Call to Action*, the response of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. The movement is also planning the official launch date for its response to coincide with the second day of the Synod next week.

*Call to Action* accuses all churches of "homophobic attitudes and discriminatory practices". It calls for a programme of study and reflection involving lay and ordained homosexuals and demands that the church reviews its pastoral programmes and policies and sets up an international commission on homosexuality under the auspices of the Anglican Consultative Council.

The church said there were no plans to publish the Osborne report, which is not an accepted policy document.

The report, commissioned four years ago, was leaked to a television station earlier this year. The working party was asked to advise the bishops on the issue of homosexual clergy.

sportsmen's photographs appeared in a brochure and in newspaper advertisements with pictures claiming to show the 40 villas with a private swimming pool. When the buyers arrived, they found only one shell of breeze blocks in scrubland on a hillside a mile from the sea.

Edward Jowett, aged 42, who joined Harrington Grange in Cambridge as a sales director in 1985, denies fraudulently trading between June 30, 1985, and March 4, 1987. Two other directors have pleaded guilty and will be sentenced at the end of the trial.

The case continues today.



Bare back rider: A final check for Lady Godiva before she is re-sited in Coventry city centre today. The two-ton bronze statue has spent the past year being cleaned

## Reforms 'may bring delays in child cases'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT proposals for allocating children's cases to the right level of court may lead to their being heard by inexperienced judges and cause delays, solicitors said yesterday.

The society said that it was concerned that the High Court was being reserved for test cases because this would waste the experience that High Court judges had gained in child protection cases.

Instead, most of the difficult cases were likely to be dealt with by circuit judges who had no experience of dealing with such cases, although they were to undergo training.

However, the society says that in principle it endorses the act's creation of a concurrent jurisdiction for all court levels as a step towards a family court.

• Solicitors will be under a professional duty to inform clients of their charging rates in writing at the start of any business, under a change to practice rules coming before the Law Society council for approval on Thursday.

The draft rule is being put forward despite mixed reaction within the profession. If adopted, it is expected to reduce complaints to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau, running at 18,000 a year.

## British Telecom announces fewer faulty lines than ever.

In 1987, 4.3% of telephone calls in this country were failing to connect. Today, that

figure is down to 0.7% and it's still improving. In fact, whichever way you look at it,

British Telecom's customer service is improving. Walk out onto the street and you

might notice the absence of broken payphones. That's because, at any one time, 96%

of public payphones are in perfect working order. As recently as December 1987, the

figure was as low as 72%. Try calling directory enquiries. Only two years ago, you had

a one in four chance of finding our operators engaged. Happily, you now have only a

one in twelve chance. Our repair performance is dramatically better. Nine out of ten

faults are now cleared within a working day. And 95% of new lines are now installed

by the date agreed with the customer. Of course, there's still work to be done. With

telephone lines running the length and breadth of the country, carrying 80 million

calls a day, the odd line is inevitably going to develop problems. But at a rate of two

a day, we've been rapidly modernising our 7,000 local exchanges. Indeed, 70% of our

twenty-five million customers are now being served by a modernised exchange.

Which means you'll also be enjoying clearer lines and quicker connections. Naturally,

this all costs money. Last year alone, improving and expanding our services

cost us over £3 billion. Details of exactly how we're investing this money

are contained in our latest Quality of Service Report. To obtain a copy, please call

us free anytime on 0800-800 882. We think you'll agree we're on the right lines.

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Where else have you seen Marcel Marceau mime the weather forecast?

Or seen a rehearsal for a Sadler's Wells show in a farmyard with pigs and cows? Or shared a Beethoven concert with a string quartet in a boxing ring? This is the world that Thames News brings you six times a day. A bustling, dynamic, dazzling world.

The four corners of the world of London, within the four corners of your television screen.

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But just because we're fast, that doesn't mean we cast aside a news story once it's no longer headline material.

After the Marchioness river boat disaster, we kept in touch with the survivors, and the families of those who died, and we carried out our



# Pressure on holiday firms as big two restrict prices

From HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT, IN BUDAPEST

BRITAIN'S two biggest tour operators yesterday sent a shudder through the rest of the travel industry with confident promises that they will not raise the price of next year's summer holidays by more than 2 per cent above the level set before the Gulf confrontation sent fuel costs soaring and threatened to plunge many airlines and tour operators into the red.

Thomson Holidays and International Leisure Group (ILG), which together have 53 per cent of the market, are both strongly placed to weather the economic storm because they were able to buy fuel ahead of the dramatic price increases. Smaller com-

## Tory MP banned and fined

PATRICK Nicholls, former junior environment minister and campaigner against alcohol misuse, was yesterday banned from driving for a year and fined £250 when he admitted drink driving (Lin Jenkins writes).

Nicholls was stopped as he drove away from Bournemouth after a working dinner at a restaurant during last month's Conservative party conference. He had declined to continue his journey to Portsmouth by taxi after a disagreement with the driver about the fare. Nicholls, aged 41, of Farrington, Devon, resigned his ministerial job within hours of being charged.

Ian Graham, for the prosecution, told Bournemouth magistrates that a breath test showed the MP for Teignbridge had 54mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood. Michael Wilks, for Nicholls, said the punishment in committing the offence while holding a public office was immediate.

## Guinness two will defend themselves

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO of the three defendants in the second Guinness trial will represent themselves when the full hearing begins in the new year, a pre-trial review of the case at Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

The former merchant bankers Lord Spens and Roger Seelig say that between them they have already spent £1 million on legal advice and can no longer afford professional representation.

Lord Spens, aged 50, has a Cambridge law degree but Mr

Seelig, a former director of Morgan Grenfell, has no legal experience. The third defendant, David Mayhew, a stockbroker, who was not in court yesterday, is having his costs met by his employer, Cazenove. He was represented yesterday by Alan Rawley, QC.

The three face eight counts arising from the £2.7 billion takeover of the Distillers drinks group in 1986. The charges allege conspiracy to defraud and false accounting. The trial is due to start on January 14.



**This cat was thrown on a bonfire. Someone had to rescue it.**

Some people have a strange way of celebrating the 5th of November. They throw fireworks at dogs. They tie bangers to kittens' tails. Last year we nursed this cat back to health after it had deliberately been thrown on a bonfire. Please, help the RSPCA rescue the victims of Guy Fawkes night.

The RSPCA is a charity. We receive no government funds. Please use my donation to fight animal cruelty.

£100  £50  £25  £10  Other £

I wish to give via Visa/Access Card No:

Signature:  Expiry:

Name:

Address:

To: RSPCA, Dept CFS, Freepost, Bristol BS3 3YV.

RSPCA

## Trust ports face clash over sell-off schemes

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

AMBITION PLANS to privatise the trust ports, the 100 or so state-owned port facilities that handle more than a third of Britain's imports and exports, will be unveiled in the Queen's Speech tomorrow.

The scheme has been denounced by opponents at the tail-end of the government's privatisation programme, although supporters insist the sell-off promises to become the pathfinder for a new era of local community enterprise.

Many of the trust ports, which include Dover, the Port of London Authority, the Medway, Hull, Tyne, Miford Haven, Aberdeen and Ipswich, were established by Victorian merchant adventurers to regulate harbour trade. Now they co-exist with the private-sector ports in the British Ports Federation, such as Manchester, Liverpool and Felixstowe, and the municipal ports such as Bristol and Portsmouth.

Unlike the private-sector ports, however, the trust ports are unable to use their asset base to borrow money

to finance revitalisation schemes, including industrial, leisure and retail developments, because their assets belong to the state.

After the abolition of the National Dock Labour Scheme last year, the trust ports of Clyde and of Tees and Hartlepool put themselves in the vanguard of the privatisation initiative by submitting their own privatisation bills. Both bills are now before the House of Lords and could receive royal assent in the new year.

The new trust ports bill will take the form of enabling legislation, allowing trust ports to take the private route without the need for parliamentary approval for individual privatisations.

The government hopes that the success of the Clyde and the Tees and Hartlepool bills will encourage the other trust ports to follow their example.

The value of all the trust ports has yet to be established. Only 23 had a turnover of more than £1 million last year. However, it has been estimated that the top 20 could be worth up to £500 million. Supporters say

privatisation would enable the trust ports to attract the private capital needed to develop and meet the new trading opportunities presented by the 1990s.

The new trust ports bill will take the form of enabling legislation, allowing trust ports to take the private route without the need for parliamentary approval for individual privatisations.

Advocates of the scheme acknowledge that asset stripping is a danger. They insist it has been reduced by the collapse of the property boom in the South-East, and any remaining threat can be minimised by residual government regulatory powers.

In addition, privatisation

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# Heady hopes for radical reformer anticipating his judgment day

ROY Hattersley, a politician for whom self-doubt is as foreign as taciturnity, describes himself as radical by instinct as well as intellectual conviction. Judgment day for the reformer seems to be approaching fast.

If 1991 opens as darkly for the Tories as 1990 is closing, the bookmakers will soon start tipping the writer, socialist ideologue and deputy Labour leader as the next home secretary. For a man who has always rated landing the best suite at the Home Office's headquarters second only to occupying 10 Downing Street, it is a heady prospect.

The shadow home secretary also freely accepts, however, that a Labour election victory would spell an end to the years of talking for himself and his party. The challenge, he says, would be to restore full public confidence in the police and the legal system, and implement legislation that could earn him the reputation of being the most progressive home secretary since Roy Jenkins who, in a two-year burst of reformism in the 1960s, legalised homosexuality between consenting adults and abolished corporal punishment in jails. Mr Hattersley's

Falling confidence in police and the legal system and rising recorded crime and jail riots have the Home Office under fire. Quentin Cowdry interviews Roy Hattersley, shadow home secretary

agenda includes the introduction of a freedom of information bill, establishing parliamentary scrutiny of MI5 and MI6, the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the creation of a tribunal to investigate suspected miscarriages of justice.

Of these measures, the last is expected to meet the most resistance, although Mr Hattersley does not expect Whitehall to exactly glow with anticipation at the prospect of more open government. "I am expecting a few arguments, particularly with the judiciary."

He was deeply shocked by the quashing of the convictions of the Guildford Four and believes that a sweeping change in the way in which the court system deals with alleged miscarriages of justice relating to matters of law or

procedure. "The problem with the Appeal Court is that it tends to look at former trials in a very blinkered way. Yet, if you look at a whole series of convictions quashed for police impropriety, the problem has always begun with the eruption of a national passion in the wake of some atrocity for the police to make convictions.

In a free society you can't prevent that kind of hysteria, but you do need certain protections."

Mr Hattersley, whose political outlook spans Labour's left and right wings, has done more than anything else over the past 20 years to undermine the standing of the police.

Labour would create a tribunal comprising legal and lay experts which would be empowered to review alleged wrongful convictions. If, after an enquiry, it considered that the complaints were well founded, the tribunal could either urge the home secretary to order a retrial or conduct a thorough review itself.

The Appeal Court, which is unlikely to be enamoured with the plan, would be limited to hearing alleged miscarriages of justice relating to matters of law or

constable patrolling on foot. "I find it difficult to argue with the logic that the thief who goes to your back door hoping it hasn't been locked is less likely to do so if he thinks a policeman may just walk round the corner."

Such support for the police and the traditional model of British policing would not come without a price, though Labour would make police authorities who have statutory powers to oversee policing outside London, wholly elected bodies, removing the right of magistrates to occupy one-third of the seats.

They would also be encouraged to set targets for reducing the recorded level of crime in localities, and to adopt new shift patterns designed to maximise the availability of manpower on the streets.

Labour would create a special council to work with the Court of Appeal in helping courts to interpret sentencing guidelines laid down by Parliament.

While Labour supported the broad thrust of the government's new "punishment in the community" strategy, it feared that ministers were placing too much faith in sentencers.



Settling in: Kenneth Clarke smiles for the cameras yesterday while William Waldegrave (above) enters the cabinet as health secretary, putting a human face on radical reforms to the welfare state. His first task will be to soothe the medical profession after the feverish pace of change in the national health service introduced by the departing Kenneth Clarke. Mr Clarke, state-educated son of a Nottinghamshire miner, replaces John MacGregor as education secretary. His role is not to be a calming influence but to face Labour head-on in the battle over education, which is likely to be a key issue in a general election campaign. On Thursday, when the autumn statement on public spending is published, each will claim that he has won extra money from the Treasury. Mr Clarke may



claim credit for both, knowing that he struck an early deal with the Treasury while Mr MacGregor held out long enough for the prime minister to intervene.

## Confident campaign start for SNP duo

THE Scottish National party began the joint by-election campaign for the Paisley North and Paisley South parliamentary seats yesterday in a mood of optimism (Merry Chisholm writes).

Flanking Alex Salmond, the party's new leader, the candidates sat joking with the press. It was pure coincidence, they said, that each was wearing a Paisley-patterned tie, unfortunately made outside Scotland. Their upbeat tone reflected a confidence that Labour was on the defensive in both seats, verified by a repeat of the Govan by-election two years ago when Labour was beaten by a 33 per cent swing to the SNP.

Iain Lawson (Paisley South) and Roger Mullin (Paisley North) are to concentrate on mistakes made by the Labour administration on Renfrew district council, most notably the payment of £1.3 million to a builder who failed to complete work and went bankrupt. Mr Lawson said that with about half the electorate living in public-sector housing, Labour would struggle to explain an extra £5 a week on rent bills.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, launched the Conservative by-election campaign yesterday saying that the new SNP leader presented a nightmare vision of an isolated, state-controlled Scotland. He said the Tories would fight for the unionist cause with force and passion.

General election, 1987. Paisley North: (Labour) 20,195; Liberal (C) 5,751; McDonald (SDP/Alliance) 5,741; Taylor (SNP) 4,696. Lab majority: 14,442. Paisley South: Buchan (Lab) 21,611; Carmichael (L/Alliance) 5,826; Williamson (C) 5,644; Mitchell (SNP) 5,398. Lab majority: 15,785.

## Scottish councils get 10% grant rise

LOCAL authorities in Scotland were given an average 10.6 per cent rise in revenue support grant yesterday (Henry Chisholm writes).

Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, said that the money would enable councils to keep community charge rises down to inflation levels. However, he said that councils which set higher poll tax bills might be targeted.

While some councils were agreeably surprised at the increased grant, local authority leaders said that it was unrealistic of Mr Rifkind not to expect substantial rises, due partly to poor collection rates. They also believe that the government's prediction for inflation is optimistic.

Keith Geddes, leader of Lothian's Labour administration, said his council's 13 per cent rise proved it had been underfunded. "There is still a possibility our increase in poll tax could be as much as £100 a head. One year's good figures do not make up for years of chronic underfunding."

Jean McFadden, president of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, said Mr Rifkind was awarding more cash to Tory suburbs at the expense of the city. "The Scottish secretary is bleeding Glasgow dry to subsidise handouts to the well-heeled suburbs and country areas."

Glasgow received a rise of just over 9 per cent, and Strathclyde 9 per cent. Mrs McFadden said that average poll tax bills would rise to over £400 a year unless there was immediate improvement in collection or cuts in services. "Not only is the poll tax a very unpopular and unfair tax, it is also a very unstable and unsatisfactory way of financing local government."

## Drive to cut £5bn annual food deficit

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A DRIVE to reduce Britain's £5 billion a year trade deficit in food and drink was launched by the government yesterday, with the announcement of a new system for granting an internationally recognised seal of approval to food that pass strict quality tests.

John Gummer, agriculture minister, said that Food From Britain, the government-funded promotional body, would be the official quality-testing authority under European Community regulations. "As the scope of the scheme expands, more and more quality British foods with the Food From Britain seal of approval will reach the plates of consumers here and in Europe."

He added: "We consistently import more food and drink than we export. The gap is about £5 billion a year in and year out. I want to see a big reduction in this gap. The

end of 1992 will see the markets of 12 separate member states brought together into one single market with 340 million potential customers."

Opening the annual conference in London of Food From Britain, Mr Gummer said that British producers were well placed in many areas, such as convenience foods, to take advantage of the expanding market opportunities and must not let others steal a march on them.

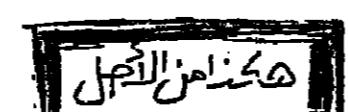
Food From Britain's quality logo, a red and blue triangle, already appears on a range of products, including lamb, beef, bacon, salmon, eggs and chicken, and will soon be extended to cover pork, handmade cheeses and free-range chicken and turkey. So far, however, it has not been officially recognised by the British government and in the rest of Europe.

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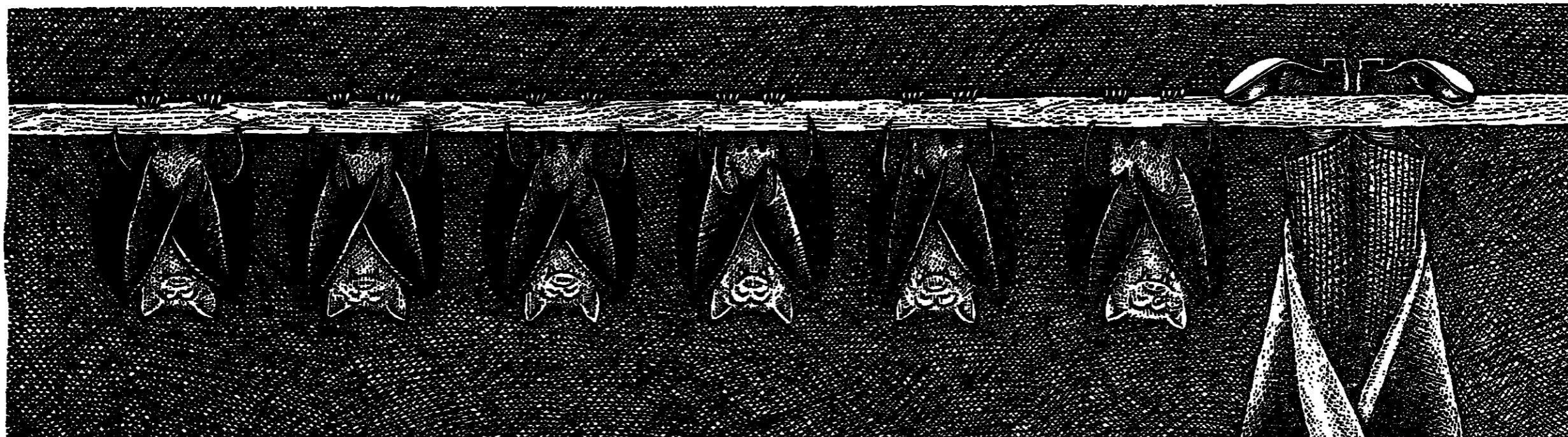


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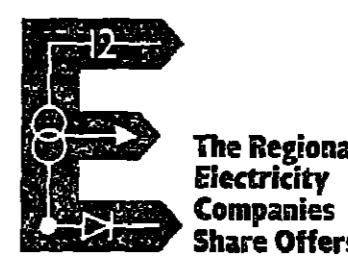
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Hostages direct their bitterness at Whitehall as Iraq refines propaganda tactics

## Reunited families call on government for financial help

By RAY CLANCY AND ALICE THOMSON

THREE months after the Iraqis invaded Kuwait many of the freed British hostages and their families are still facing serious financial problems and as Christmas approaches they are asking the government to do more.

Wives are faced with the prospect of explaining to children that father will not be home for Christmas. Some are staying with relatives because they have lost not just their possessions but their homes, while others have sold the family car to make ends meet.

For one man who came home in a blaze of publicity aboard the mercy flight organised by Edward Heath, the former prime minister, who travelled to Baghdad and secured the release of 33 sick and elderly people, the answer is simple. Joseph Wild, who was allowed home because he has a heart condition, said last night the government should pay up and claim the money from Iraq.

"Why should we have to go to the Department of Social Security. We are independent people used to making our own way in life. I don't have any money. I can't pay my telephone bill but I am too proud to beg," said Mr Wild.

Maitre Jacques Miguel, a

lawyer representing families of Waterlooville, Hampshire. He lost his flat worth about £50,000 and all his possessions when the Iraqis invaded. "Those who were not there cannot imagine what we suffered. I was grabbed from my bed by a soldier wielding a rifle, had the shirt torn from my back and was dragged away to a camp where I was held prisoner. The Iraqis called us guests but we were locked up."

As a self-employed consultant to the Kuwaiti navy, Mr Wild, aged 61, said he earned a comfortable salary but is now facing a bleak future. "I worked abroad because I didn't want to sponge off the state. Why should I do so now. The government could easily give us all a grant and then claim it back when all this is over."

However French hostages and their families returning home from Iraq are being treated far better than their British counterparts, hostage support groups claimed.

When the National Committee for the Defence of French Hostages asked for financial aid at the beginning of the crisis, the French government immediately accepted responsibility. Maitre Jacques Miguel, a



John Wild, a former hostage in Iraq, with his wife, Shirley-Anne, at their home in Waterlooville, Hants. He urged the government to give freed Britons a grant

in 1986. Paris has ruled that the hostages in Iraq are to be considered "victims of terrorism".

M Miguel said "the view of the defence committee and the government is that the taking of these hostages was state terrorism by a terrorist head of state, Saddam Hussein."

In Germany there is no organised support system for the families of the 400 hostages held in Iraq and Kuwait.

Families are given no financial assistance by the government. Despite one rally two weeks ago in central Bonn, when 200 people complained about the lack of interest, there has been little backlash over their treatment.

After accusations of ineptitude after the Lockerbie air crash, the United States State Department has organised a task force to deal with the hostage dilemma. Teams work round the clock ringing relatives with updates.

## Britons showing hint of sympathy for their captors

By NICHOLAS BEESTON

THREE British hostages sat on the wall at the entrance to the Novotel hotel in Baghdad looking despondently at their French counterparts, who were being loaded on to buses last week at the start of their journey home.

"We could be going with them if Thatcher had just kept her mouth shut a little more often," said one of the British workers, whose observation was met by nods of agreement from his colleagues.

The outburst is typical of a growing number of the hundreds of Britons trapped in Iraq and Kuwait, who are increasingly directing their anger towards the British government amid signs that the Iraqi regime is exploiting their predicament skilfully.

The attitude has raised concern that a "Stockholm syndrome" could be developing between some of the Western hostages and their Iraqi captors. The mental condition was first discovered in the 1970s when an emotional bond developed between hostages and gunmen during the siege of a bungled bank robbery in the Swedish capital.

Initially the thousands of Westerners held by Iraq were used as a crude human shield to deter American air strikes. President Saddam Hussein's first attempt at manipulating his "special guests" for propaganda purposes ended in failure when he visited a group of British hostages and outraged the world with his clumsy attempt to befriend a young British boy.

Now, however, Baghdad has discovered that the hostages' plight can be used effectively, firstly to undermine the Western military alliance through the selective release of some nationals, and secondly as a means of diverting world attention from the invasion of Kuwait.

Dr James Thompson, a senior lecturer in psychology at London University said:

"After an extremely clumsy start the Iraqis are beginning to handle the hostage issue very skilfully. The first propaganda stunt backfired terribly, but it seems he (President Saddam) has listened to his advisers and now they have become more sophisticated in

using the hostage issue as a smokescreen to divert attention away from the real issue. We now talk about the hostages rather than Kuwait."

The impasse has also enabled Iraq to use the predicament of the 1,300 trapped Britons as an instrument against the government.

Penny Dix, a psychotherapist at the Gulf Support Group, said: "For many people, both hostages and their relatives, there is great anger because they feel they have been forgotten. They have to pin it on someone and usually that is Mrs Thatcher and the government."

"Saddam Hussein is playing on this very well; every few days our hopes are raised that some more hostages might come out. He will play this out as long as he can."

In the latest move, the Iraqi authorities have invited the relatives of hostages to visit them in Iraq at Christmas. It was dismissed as "a cruel and calculating Iraqi ploy" by the Foreign Office and the US State Department, but welcomed by many wives planning to take up the offer.

Of growing concern to the Western consular officials in Baghdad is evidence of the "Stockholm syndrome" taking root among the hostages.

"We see the Stockholm syndrome in people who have lived here for many years," explained one diplomat.

"They start saying that the Kuwaitis were greedy, selfish people and that Iraq had some justification when it invaded."

Dr Thompson said that the relationship could form quite naturally under the present conditions.

"People who are held hostage can form a bond of affection with their captors, particularly if the captors are not holding guns to their heads and the conditions of their confinement are good. It is human nature to be friendly with a human being next to you, even if he is your captor."

The condition has been diagnosed by Dr Bertil Berg, a Swedish hostage in Baghdad, who has developed a programme for his fellow captives to help fight the boredom and despair of three months' confinement.

## Call-up for US weekend warriors

From SUSAN ELLCOTT  
IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon is to call up for Gulf duty thousands of "weekend warriors" from military reserve combat units. The move was seen as a signal to Baghdad that Washington's resolve is as strong as ever and came as the exiled Emir of Kuwait said yesterday that he would prefer his country to be "liberated today rather than tomorrow" and would not mind if a rescue from Iraqi occupation took place without the backing of the United Nations.

The reserve troops are expected to leave in coming weeks among a deployment of up to 100,000 further troops announced earlier. Two-thirds of the 330,000 troops in Operation Desert Shield are American.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, yesterday urged James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to free Kuwait swiftly after Baghdad vowed it would never withdraw its troops "even if we have to fight a dangerous war". The two men met in the Saudi Arabian mountain resort of Taif, where the emir has been in exile since Iraq invaded its neighbour three months ago. Mr Baker, who is in the Middle East and Europe



Sheikh Jaber urged Baker to act swiftly for a week to confer with regional leaders about the Gulf conflict, was due later to meet King Fahd of Saudi Arabia before travelling to Egypt, Turkey, Britain, France and the Soviet Union. He was expected to ask the king to consider possible military options if economic sanctions approved by the UN Security Council fail to drive out the Iraqis.

His trip follows fiery anti-Iraq rhetoric last week from the Bush administration, including one of the president's speeches likening President Saddam Hussein to Hitler.

## Beirut designers don their battle dress

From A CORRESPONDENT IN BEIRUT

SHRAPNEL, twisted metal and rubble provided an unlikely backdrop for the Beirut collections as Lebanon's leading fashion designers took inspiration from the ravages of the civil war.

Candies, a symbol of wartime Beirut, fit the remains of the lobby of the famous St George's Hotel, once the haunt of KGB spy Kim Philby, diplomats and foreign correspondents. Catwalk models in short skirts and revealing tops paraded before an exclusive audience in a burnt-out hall with soot-blackened walls covered with graffiti marking the end of the civil war.

The audience of 500 ventured to the hotel in Beirut's deserted downtown area, ravaged by 15 years of bitter fighting between Christian and Muslim gunmen. The fragrance of their French perfume overwhelmed the dust

and stinking smell of nearby garbage piles and sewage pipes. Their spotless limousines were parked near craters in the hotel driveway.

The haute couture outfits of the models and the audience stood in sharp contrast with the camouflage combat figures of soldiers, who looked from adjacent buildings.

Beirut's upper class and Gulf tourists fleeing their less permissive states had considered the St George an oasis in pre-war Lebanon. Its picture-postcard bar was a hangout for journalists, diplomats and politicians.

A journalist, Ihsan Hijazi, aged 60, remembered it as "the place in Lebanon to see and be seen". But the civil war erupted in 1975 and this time Mr Hijazi saw the hotel was a year later when he reported on dead Christians militiamen littering the lobby after an armed attack.

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# Bonn urges EC to temper anti-Iraq line to avert war

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY is pressing the European Community to take a markedly less hard line than the United States against Iraq in the interests of finding a peaceful solution and the release of all the hostages.

This was clear yesterday from the way Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, rang his Italian opposite number, Gianni de Michelis, to ask for an immediate special meeting of EC ministers to discuss the Gulf crisis.

The Dutch had already asked for the special session to find out why the German government, in apparent defiance of a statement agreed by the Rome EC summit a week before, had given its blessing to a private visit to Baghdad by Willy Brandt.

Herr Genscher made no direct reference to the former West German chancellor's trip in his talk with the Italian minister, who is currently president of the EC's council of ministers. By his intervention, however, Herr Genscher sought to turn criticism of Germany into a way of making the Community discuss ways of achieving peace and the freedom of all hostages.

The foreign minister had in an earlier radio interview, rejected any criticism of Herr Brandt's visit. He wished the former chancellor every success, saying he had no need for special permission from the UN to go and that it was important to sound out all possibilities for helping peace and the hostages. The government, he insisted, would leave no stone unturned in its efforts to win the freedom of

Herr Brandt's special aircraft stopped for an hour-long

customs check in Vienna on the way to Baghdad. This was in keeping with UN Security Council regulations which require an inspection by a third country of any cargo being sent to Iraq to ensure it is not in breach of embargo regulations. The aircraft was carrying medical supplies and children's food which had been requested by the German embassy in Baghdad.

As 14 Germans and a Belgian freed by Iraq arrived in Germany yesterday a captive technician expressed concern for other foreigners held as part of Baghdad's "human shield", and said he had been told of Herr Brandt's visit (Reuter reports). The 15 men who arrived at Frankfurt airport work for a Cologne-based construction company.

A Stuttgart policeman meanwhile received a telephone call from his technician son who is being held in Iraq. The hostage said food was becoming scarce but most hostages were doing well. But he added: "That is not true for those held in the camps, according to what we hear."

Leading article, page 15



Strength to strength: a captive giant panda at Fuzhou zoo in Peking shows off its weightlifting prowess. China has told the World Wide Fund for Nature that it will implement a long-awaited programme to save the species from extinction

# Peking takes first step in saving pandas

From MICHAEL McCARTHY IN GENEVA

CHINA is to implement its long-awaited management plan to save the giant panda from extinction. Song Jain, the Chinese state councillor responsible for the environment, told the World Wide Fund for Nature yesterday.

Mr Elliott said last night: "This is very good news for the panda, coming after all the delays of the past year. It is a major step on the road to saving the animal, although we shall be even more encouraged when the financial decision is taken."

The funding discussion will take place between the state council and the Chinese ministry of forestry, under whose aegis the plan was drawn up. It includes new reserves, increased patrolling of existing reserves and "bamboo corridors" between isolated clumps of forest.

Mr Elliott said: "Mr Song is the most important politician in China to oversee the environment and we are heartened by his evident commitment to saving the panda. He is fully informed about the plan and feels it is a national priority."

The fund would probably be contributing a "six-figure sum" towards the cost of the full programme, Mr Elliott said.

A decision on what level of

## Heseltine gets red carpet treatment

### Sharon speeds housing plan

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

ARIEL Sharon, Israel's controversial housing minister and former general, was accused yesterday of overreaching himself by "cutting through red tape" holding up an emergency plan for the building of thousands of new homes for Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Officials said 75,000 Soviet Jews were expected to arrive in Israel this month and next month, bringing the total number of arrivals for 1990 to 200,000. One million Soviet Jews are expected to come by the end of 1992.

On Sunday the Israeli cabinet approved a plan under which Mr Sharon, noted for his right-wing views, would be able to award government building contracts without offering them for open tender. The new regulation does not refer specifically to housing for Soviet Jews, talking only of "special cases". But the move is assumed to be intended to help solve the problems posed by the housing shortage and the huge numbers of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Mr Sharon has vowed to build new homes in east Jerusalem, thus raising tensions with the United States, which regards east Jerusalem as "occupied territory".

Four government ministers yesterday said the Sharon plan for offering contracts without open competition was clearly subject to abuse and possible corruption. Arye Deri, the interior minister, said the plan would cause delays rather than cut through red tape because building contractors who felt they had been cheated or bypassed would appeal to the supreme court.

Mr Sharon, however, said Israel had "a tremendous mission." He added: "We have an urgent need for apartments. We have land, but we have a shortage of builders and contractors."

Officials said the army was preparing to turn over two military bases in southern Israel for use by Soviet immigrants. Yitzhak Peretz, the immigration minister, said Soviet Jews were still leaving the Soviet Union in large numbers.

### Carrier arrives

Bahrain - The American aircraft carrier, Midway, cruised into the Gulf with its escort ships yesterday. A US naval spokesman here said the Midway would be able to "more fully exercise" its operating capability in the strategic waterway. Sending the Midway into the Gulf puts targets in Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait within range of the carrier's 75 warplanes without refuelling. (Reuters)

### Cost of invasion

Tunis - Palestinians and the PLO have suffered more than \$4 billion (£2 billion) damage since the invasion of Kuwait, says Yassir Arafat, the organisation's chairman. Most of this represents money in frozen accounts in Kuwait belonging to Palestinian workers and companies there. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states have halted their \$40 million a month support for the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.



Sharon: cut red tape to force through contracts



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# Embattled Republicans seek to limit election damage

ENOUGH mud has been slung to refill the Channel tunnel. The annual budget of a small Third World nation has been spent on negative advertising. After months of campaigning, Americans, or at least the third who can still be bothered to vote, will today elect governors for 36 of the 50 states, a new House of Representatives and a third of the Senate. Their choices will affect the country's political direction for a decade or more.

The elections are more than a referendum on the performance of a troubled Republican White House, though the results will be seen as such. At stake is whether the Republicans can lay the foundations for regaining the Senate they last controlled in 1986 and breaking a 35-year Democratic stranglehold on the House of Representatives; or — much more likely — whether the Democrats can continue to build their congressional strength to the point where a Republican president can no longer be confident of having his veto sustained.

Derived from the anti-tax, anti-communist war cry which carried them through the 1980s, the Republicans enter the elections with the economy deteriorating, polls registering a national pessimism not seen since the dying days of the Carter administration, and ranks deeply divided after last month's tax-and-budget melodrama. Mr Bush's ratings have fallen more steeply than those of any president since Gerald Ford pardoned Richard Nixon after Watergate. In the summer the

As American voters go to the polls today, Martin Fletcher assesses the prospects in elections that will affect the nation's political direction for a decade or more

Republicans had high hopes of making significant advances, but the talk now is of damage limitation, with experts predicting the possible loss of a dozen House seats, a couple of senators and up to half a dozen governors.

It is the governorships that really matter. Next year there will be a once-a-decade redistribution of House seats to reflect national population shifts. This could swing 40 seats. State legislatures redraw the congressional district boundaries, and only the governor's veto can prevent them gerrymandering. This explains the Republicans' desperation to retain the governorships of California, Florida and Texas, all of which have Democrat-controlled legislatures. These states will gain 14 new congressmen between them; their combined delegations would then account for nearly a quarter of the entire House.

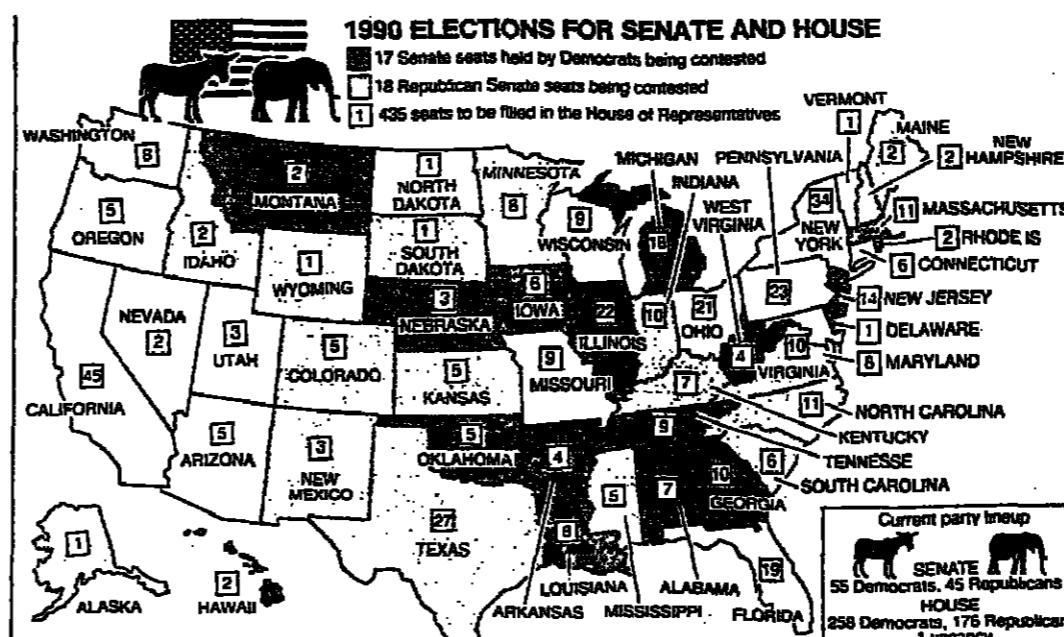
All three races are close. In California, the biggest prize, last-minute polls showed Pete Wilson, the Republican, fractionally ahead of Dianne Feinstein, the former mayor of San Francisco. In Texas, scene of the year's nastiest gubernatorial contest, Democrat Ann Richards has in the campaign's dying days pulled level for the first time with Republican Clayton Williams. In Florida, Bob Marti-

nez, the Republican governor, set out as an unpopular incumbent but has clawed his way back to a virtual dead heat with his Democratic challenger, Lawton Chiles, a maverick former senator who will not accept more than \$100 from any contributor and spurns modern electioneering techniques.

There are three other big states to watch. In Massachusetts, with voters seething at the outgoing Democratic administration of Michael Dukakis, John Silber has been waging an angry outsider's campaign to fight off Republican William Weld. In Illinois, Jim Edgar is struggling to retain the governorship for the Republicans in the face of the anti-tax campaign of Democrat Neil Hartigan. In Ohio, George Voinovich, the former mayor of Cleveland, could snatch the governorship for the Republicans despite a late resurgence by the Democrat, Anthony Celebrezza.

Add potential Democratic gains from "redistricting" to a couple of Senate gains and a dozen or more Republican losses in today's House elections and the balance of power in Washington would begin to shift decisively.

At present, Democrats have a 55-44 Senate majority and 258 of the 435 House seats, a record for an opposition party in a presi-



dent's first term. A two-thirds majority in both houses is required to override a presidential veto, but even with the present composition some of Mr Bush's 16 vetoes to date have been sustained by a handful of votes.

This lends importance to the six of the 35 Senate races where incumbents, three Republicans and three Democrats, are in trouble. The most prominent is Jesse Helms of North Carolina, the veteran conservative who, after an ugly campaign with racist overtones, goes into the election fractionally behind Harvey Gantt, the liberal champion of the "new South" who would be America's

first black Democratic senator. In Oregon, Mark Hatfield, the Republican incumbent for 24 years, has been battling to ward off Harry Lonsdale, a Democrat businessman who has tapped anti-incumbent, anti-Washington sentiment. That same anti-incumbency mood has Minnesota Republican Rudy Boschwitz fighting for his political survival.

The Republicans may lose one or two senators, but they have high hopes of ousting Daniel Akaka, the Hawaiian Democrat, and slim hopes that Tom Harkin, a Republican congressman, could still defeat Tom Harkin in Iowa

and that voter anger with anyone associated with Michael Dukakis could topple John Kerry, the Democratic senator in Massachusetts. They would be satisfied if they can maintain the status quo in the Senate. Their real hope of regaining control lies in the 1992 elections, when several Democratic senators who won seats with small majorities in 1986 must face re-election.

Apart from Mr Tanke, the Senate Republican campaign committee recruited four other popular congressmen to challenge for Senate seats held by vulnerable Democrats, but the tactic appears to have failed. Lynn Martin's \$6 million challenge to the liberal

Paul Simon of Illinois looks doomed, as does Claudine Schenck's against Rhode Island's elderly patrician Claiborne Pell and Bill Schuette's against Michigan's left-leaning Carl Levin.

Sitting congressmen, like sitting senators, enjoy overwhelming fund-raising advantages and are notoriously difficult to remove. More than 98 per cent were re-elected in 1986 and 1988, and this year is likely to be little different. In about 380 of the 435 elections incumbents have little or no competition. The real battleground is for the 29 seats where the incumbent is stepping down. Of those, 18 are held by Republicans and 11 by Democrats.

Over the past week Mr Bush appears to have stemmed a Republican free-fall by diverting public attention from the budget fiasco to the Gulf. But there has been a conspicuous lack of an overriding political issue to galvanise voters. The Republicans fear that many supporters, disillusioned by its agreement to raise taxes, may stay at home. The Savings and Loan crisis and the budget fiasco has engendered a "throw-the-bums-out" mood. It is likely, for example, that Lowell Weicker and Walter Hickey, both former Republicans, will be the gubernatorial contestants in Connecticut and Alaska to become only the fourth and fifth independent governors this century. In Vermont Bernie Sanders could well become the first socialist congressman since 1950.

Bush profile, page 14

## Rebellion in ruling party will force Singh out of office

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA was thrown into political chaos yesterday when the governing Janata Dal (People's Party) split into rival factions, making it certain that Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the prime minister, will be driven from office.

The worsening turmoil will have a disastrous impact across the volatile northern Hindi heartland, which is already torn by caste battles and some of the worst Hindu-Muslim violence in four decades. Reports flowed in last night of continuing caste and communal bloodshed.

Anti-Singh rebels knew they could not muster enough support to topple the prime minister during a crucial meeting of the parliamentary

party, so they decided instead to hold a rival meeting and choose their own leader, Chandra Shekhar. Mr Singh last night dismissed 25 rebel MPs from the party. Three other parties making up the coalition government, including the Communists, reaffirmed backing for him.

Mr Shekhar has been a prominent political fighter for more than 25 years and has railed ceaselessly against Mr Singh's leadership after being outmanoeuvred for the job in a last-minute backroom deal in December. He has formed an alliance with Devi Lal, the erratic former deputy prime minister sacked by Mr Singh for disloyalty.

The Shekhar faction man-

tered enough support to ensure that it can break away from the Janata Dal without infringing anti-defection regulations, which require defections to be supported by a third of the party. The exact number of MPs backing the rebellion was not clear but seems to have exceeded 47, the minimum necessary. Mr Singh's faction was attended by 83 of the party's 140 MPs, with at least two more sending letters of support.

What happens next will become clear after tomorrow when the Lok Sabha (lower house) votes on a one-line confidence motion submitted by Mr Singh. His defeat is inevitable. The rebels will then seek to cement an understanding with Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the opposition Congress (I) party, to support a new administration with Mr Shekhar as prime minister. Mr Shekhar and Mr Gandhi are due to hold talks today.

There is an outside possibility that Mr Gandhi will seek to become prime minister, backed by the Shekhar faction. This will depend on President Venkataswamy, who has constitutional authority to accept or reject new political alignments. He might decide to call a general election, although he is determined to avoid doing so for fear of unleashing greater violence.

The right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party, whose withdrawal of parliamentary support for Mr Singh precipitated the upheaval, ordered a one-day strike in Delhi over the government's defence of a mosque in Ayodhya which Hindu militants want demolished. Muslim MPs backed the prime minister, rewarding him for his refusal to allow the mosque to be knocked down.

THE Burmese military government has created a secret state of terror, killing thousands in a ruthless purge on dissidents, according to an Amnesty International report.

People are living in a climate of fear, says the report, and simply knowing a government critic can bring the risk of arrest and detention by the military. Thousands of people have been shot dead by soldiers, gunned down on the streets or in back alleys in a dramatic upsurge of abuse since 1988. The military arrests people anywhere and has relentlessly tortured government critics. Hundreds of people have vanished into the prison system and into 19 detention centres where torture was carried out, according to the report. Torture is an ever-present threat for political prisoners.

Monks who took part in recent anti-government demonstrations had been killed, while opposition leaders and MPs were arrested. The judicial system has been reduced to an assembly line feeding Burmese prisons, the report said. Martial law provides these tribunals with absolute authority in political cases and strips defendants of important rights.

Even though the May elections returned an overwhelming majority against the military rulers, the government has shown no sign of relinquishing power.

The regime retains power through brutality. Along with the shootings are repeated reports of torture: favourite methods include "walking on the sea-shore", being forced to crawl on broken glass or sharp gravel; "riding the motorcycle" in which the victim is forced to crouch over an imaginary motorcycle, and the "iron road" where an iron bar or a bamboo cane is rolled up and down the shins until the skin comes off.

THE Tiananmen Square protest was symptomatic of unhappiness among both intellectuals and workers and was not the "counter-revolution" Chinese officialdom likes to portray, according to Ji Chaohzu, the Chinese ambassador to Britain.

The intellectuals were satisfied because they were not benefiting from economic reforms and the workers because, having doubled their incomes, they were taxed for the first time. Meanwhile, party officials and "unscrupulous middlemen" were lining their pockets in underworld deals. The situation eventually exploded — and we were caught unprepared. The reforms, while they brought much good, brought many

unexpected things; no one expected such a thing. People were killed — there is no question about that."

But the international sanctions imposed after the Peking killings were "quite unfair and unreasonable". In his first interview since the events of June 1989, Mr Ji said: "We do not know where Amnesty International gets its information. Anyway, each country must be allowed its own penal system. We have every intention of respecting human rights, that was the reason for the revolution. Before, millions were dying of starvation — that has been stopped. That is a major contribution to human rights."

Why did the killings happen? "The main square was occupied for about a month ... at a standstill ... something had to be done. But the shooting did not start right away. There was no other instrument to restore order — we tried by totally peaceful means. You could see that on Western television — I could see the army men with linked arms, trying to clear the square — and being beaten with sticks and rocks. When soldiers were killed ... then the firing began."

Mr Ji said Hong Kong had nothing to fear. "There is no possibility of changing from one party, two systems. It is China's main trading partner, and is inextricably linked with our Guangdong province in a mutually beneficial arrangement."

## Colony sued by boat people

Hong Kong — A group of 111 Vietnamese boat people sued the government here for illegal detention yesterday, arguing that they were en route to Japan and had stopped here only temporarily when their boat was rammed.

The group, held in detention centres since marine police towed their leaking 70-tonne boat ashore on May 1, 1989, claim they had accepted a government offer to repair their boat and provide food and water, but the boat was ransacked, all personal belongings and valuables stolen or damaged, and those on board sent to detention centres. The case is expected to end today. (Reuters)

## Zimbabwe ban

Harare — For the first time since 1919, no remembrance service will be held at the cenotaph here because of a ban imposed by the government. The date coincides with the 25th anniversary of Ian Smith's unilateral declaration of independence, which began his 15-year attempt to prevent black rule in Rhodesia.

## Mentally unfit

Bonn — Adelheid Streidel, 42, a receptionist who almost killed Oskar Lafontaine, the German Social Democrat's candidate for chancellor, with a butcher's knife at a political rally in April, was found mentally unfit by a court in Cologne and sent to a closed psychiatric clinic. She pleaded guilty and said she was sorry the attack had failed.

## Attack by lion

Castellon, Spain — A lion tamer who was clawed in the neck and thigh by one of his lions during his circus act was in serious condition after undergoing surgery here, a hospital spokeswoman said. (AP)

## 1941 plan 'to sell off New Guinea'

From ROBERT COOKBURN IN SYDNEY

DETAILS of a bizarre 1941 American proposal to sell New Guinea to Japan in exchange for the withdrawal of Japanese forces in China were disclosed here yesterday. America was to fund the sale to buy time for building up its forces against Japan.

Without the knowledge of Australia or The Netherlands, New Guinea's then rulers, declassified US state department documents found at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, outlined an agreement of sale of the Pacific island. Japan was to repay America with the withdrawal of troops and transfer of naval and merchant ships in a £10.5 billion deal.

In November 1941, when

Australia feared a Japanese invasion through New Guinea and just three weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbour, the state department feared its plan could provoke a crisis of appeasement to preserve regional American territories at its allies' expense.

According to the *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the documents' author, Maxwell Hamilton, head of the division of Far Eastern affairs at the state department, wrote the proposal on November 18, 1941, the day Japanese submarines set out for their attack on Pearl Harbour. That attack put paid to the idea.

Australian historians reacted to the sale proposal with great surprise yesterday.

## Amnesty accuses Burma of brutality

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Burmese military government has created a secret state of terror, killing thousands in a ruthless purge on dissidents, according to an Amnesty International report.

People are living in a climate of fear, says the report, and simply knowing a government critic can bring the risk of arrest and detention by the military. Thousands of people have been shot dead by soldiers, gunned down on the streets or in back alleys in a dramatic upsurge of abuse since 1988. The military arrests people anywhere and has relentlessly tortured government critics. Hundreds of people have vanished into the prison system and into 19 detention centres where torture was carried out, according to the report. Torture is an ever-present threat for political prisoners.

Monks who took part in recent anti-government demonstrations had been killed, while opposition leaders and MPs were arrested. The judicial system has been reduced to an assembly line feeding Burmese prisons, the report said. Martial law provides these tribunals with absolute authority in political cases and strips defendants of important rights.

Even though the May elections returned an overwhelming majority against the military rulers, the government has shown no sign of relinquishing power.

The regime retains power through brutality. Along with the shootings are repeated reports of torture: favourite methods include "walking on the sea-shore", being forced to crawl on broken glass or sharp gravel; "riding the motorcycle" in which the victim is forced to crouch over an imaginary motorcycle, and the "iron road" where an iron bar or a bamboo cane is rolled up and down the shins until the skin comes off.

THE Tiananmen Square protest was symptomatic of unhappiness among both intellectuals and workers and was not the "counter-revolution" Chinese officialdom likes to portray, according to Ji Chaohzu, the Chinese ambassador to Britain.

But the international sanctions imposed after the Peking killings were "quite unfair and unreasonable". In his first interview since the events of June 1989, Mr Ji said: "We do not know where Amnesty International gets its information. Anyway, each country must be allowed its own penal system. We have every intention of respecting human rights, that was the reason for the revolution. Before, millions were dying of starvation — that has been stopped. That is a major contribution to human rights."

Why did the killings happen? "The main square was occupied for about a month ... at a standstill ... something had to be done. But the shooting did not start right away. There was no other instrument to restore order — we tried by totally peaceful means. You could see that on Western television — I could see the army men with linked arms, trying to clear the square — and being beaten with sticks and rocks. When soldiers were killed ... then the firing began."

Mr Ji said Hong Kong had nothing to fear. "There is no possibility of changing from one party, two systems. It is China's main trading partner, and is inextricably linked with our Guangdong province in a mutually beneficial arrangement."

During her trip to Japan last year and was quickly veiled again when it failed to perform fluently as Fujitsu had hoped. All of Japan's computer giants are developing translating machines, but Fujitsu has now become the first to offer the public a chance to have a page of Japanese translated into English for 800 yen (£5).

Unfortunately, Fujitsu's pride in its new baby persuaded it to use the machine to translate its own publicity handout for the service. As a result, part of the brochure reads: "The majority of the result is announced in the science and technology in Japan is paid attention all over the world. Therefore, even the blame that Japan is defended by the wall of the word arises."

But the computer in Japan has been given an unusual endorsement from Emperor Akihito, who has confessed he uses a word processor not only to write up his research in marine biology but also to compose *tanka*, 31-syllable odes Japanese monarchs are trained to dream up at moving moments in their lives.

Many Japanese also compose *tanka* as a hobby, but usually with dainty black brushstrokes.

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LET IT THROUGH  
THE TIMES

## TOKYO NOTEBOOK by Joe Joseph

### Laying frazzled chips to rest

Y ou may still find cause to nudge the Japanese about their lukewarm enthusiasm for environmental issues but you will no longer be able to accuse them of maltreating their microchips. On Sunday, dozens of Japan's top electronics engineers held a Buddhist service at a Tokyo temple to pray for microchips and other sophisticated electronics components that have been worn out during rigorous experimental testing on the laboratory bench.

Although many Japanese have a fairly unsentimental attitude towards animals — if the sea bream being sliced up by the sushi chef is not twitching as he fillets it, diners may complain that the fish is not fresh enough — they like to pay their respects to inanimate objects that have served them well.

It is not new for solemn temple services to be held for worn-out daily household items, such as needles and brushes, to show gratitude for their usefulness. But Japanese

# Voice of revolution silent in a nation ripe for change

SOVIET television last week showed a long programme about the émigré Russian writer Leonid Andreyev and his archive, which is maintained at Leeds University. Andreyev left Russia after the revolution a sworn anti-communist and ended his days in Finland. His writings are treasured among Russian intellectuals now for their temporary relevance.

Reminiscing about the period 1914-17, Andreyev wrote that everyone was blaming someone different for the disastrous state of affairs: the tsar, the government, or Lenin and the revolutionaries.

Accounts of the last years before the Bolshevik revolution, the 73rd anniversary of which will be marked in a turbulent Soviet Union tomorrow, are increasingly scoured by Russians in the search for an analogy with what is happening today.

More than seven decades on, everyone is again blaming everyone else — if they ever stopped doing so. They certainly blame President Gorbachev and the Communist party, the tsar and his courtiers of today; they certainly blame the government.

But one group is missing: the absence of any revolutionary alternative is conspicuous. Calls for the downfall of the regime, an end to the "partocracy", the dissolution of the government, are heard repeatedly. But nobody is shouting "liberty, equality, fraternity", nor will they at the unofficial demonstrations tomorrow. Nobody is even shouting "democracy" and "free elections", as the Chinese students did. The Soviet

## MOSCOW COMMENTARY

MARY DEJEVSKY

Union has no yesterday Lenin or Trotsky. It no longer even has its own dissident movement. Its exiles with the signal exception of the writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, are silent about the future.

Even Solzhenitsyn is no

candidate to lead Russia into the future. He is a prophet and an inspiration, but he is alone.

He has no charismatic individual to translate his ideas

on the political scene, no team of agitators, and he would probably not want either.

There is massive discontent, social and ethnic friction; acute shortages and, despite repeated promises of reform, there is no clear way ahead. Yet no one in the Soviet Union or abroad is campaigning under a banner of revolution.

One school of thought holds that the struggle for daily survival, coupled with 70 years of repression, have stifled all inclination to revolt. Another argues that the political repression was lifted just in time, the revolutionaries who might have come from the dissident movement of the 1960s and 1970s have by and large been absorbed into mainstream opposition politics.

Yet another view is that the concept of revolution, together with the words liberty, equality and fraternity, have been so devalued since 1917 that they no longer provide inspiration for change.

According to a further, no

less pessimistic, argument, the Bolshevik revolution and its aftermath genetically "beheaded" the Russian nation, neutralising, killing or forcing into exile those most capable of independent thought.

There is, however, quite a different argument for the absence of revolutionaries ready to exploit a potentially revolutionary scenario. We are all looking for them in the

world. Mr Gorbachev has increasingly cast himself as architect and supervisor of a revolution. Boris Yeltsin, although a more populist leader and for three years a political outsider, might seem a more plausible candidate for a revolutionary. But he, too, has sought to impose change from above.

Will revolution from above pre-empt revolution from below, or has it merely delayed it? And is it the lack of a revolutionary leader from outside, or Russian passivity, that so far has prevented popular discontent from exploding into popular anger?

The Next Frontier, Business Supplement



Minister on parade: Dmitri Yazov, the Soviet defence minister, shaking hands with generals yesterday at rehearsals in Moscow for a military parade tomorrow marking the 73rd anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

The Communist party, facing growing hostility around the country, has been forced to rely on the army as the main standard-bearer at the celebrations (Reuters reports from Moscow). President Gorbachev has ordered the armed forces to hold parades in capitals of all 15 republics, in an attempt to restore a semblance of unity to the national holiday. He

denounced radical officials' calls not to observe the day as "suspicious". National movements in many republics have cancelled the celebrations, and radicals in charge of many cities have organised a day of mourning for the victims of Bolshevism.

## Italy makes plea for EC farm pact

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community farm and trade ministers last night began more crucial negotiations on farm subsidy cuts amid warnings that the United States was losing patience with their dithering and was threatening to walk out of the world trade talks in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt).

Renato Ruggiero, the Italian trade minister, told his colleagues, meeting for the seventh time on the issue, that time had run out. The EC could not allow a failure of the current Uruguay Round. A breakdown would strengthen protectionism throughout the world. He appealed to the ministers, especially the French and Germans, to negotiate in a spirit of compromise.

After a week of hectic backstage lobbying by the Italians, currently holding the EC presidency, Signor Ruggiero proposed three additional sweeteners to help the reluctant ministers swallow the commission package of cuts. These offered extra help to encourage community preferences, for land set aside and dedicated to non-food use, and for less favoured regions of the EC.

A spokesman said the package was intended to include "something for everyone" — the first declaration being aimed at the French, Belgians and Irish, the second at helping German farmers wanting production limitations, and the third at Mediterranean countries objecting to making the same deep cuts in support as those demanded of richer northern farmers. Britain was deeply unhappy at any further

watering down of the Community offer, which it believes the minimum the EC's Gatt partners will accept. But John Gummer, the agricultural secretary, said at the start of the meeting that the urgent priority was now to reach agreement so that the EC could put its agricultural offer on the table in Geneva.

The ministers were warned yesterday that they must reach agreement now by the import-

Gummer: pressing for urgent farm agreement

ant 14-nation Cairns group. The group, which includes big agricultural producers such as Australia and Argentina, said that otherwise the scheduled final ministerial meeting of the 105 nations would have to be postponed, with implications for the further conduct of the round.

Clayton Yeutter, the US agricultural secretary, also threatened on Friday to walk out of the Gatt talks if the EC failed to make progress.

## Rome enquiry into 'Gladiator' scandal

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN ROME

ALLEGATIONS at the weekend that Nato planned an armed uprising by right-wing groups, in the event of communists winning elections in certain European countries, including Italy, led yesterday to renewed calls here for the resignation of President Cossiga.

The Italian parliament will today discuss Operation Gladiator, details of which have scandalised the political establishment and further undermined Giulio Andreotti's shaky coalition government.

The "gladiators" were allegedly groups of servicemen working with the CIA. They established cells in all Nato countries prepared to fight a Soviet invasion or, more controversially, combat the threat of communism from within the state.

Felice Casson, a Venetian judge, discovered details of Operation Gladiator by chance at a trial last week. As the full scope of the operation has become known, a number of former ministers have found difficulty in explaining to a sceptical Italian public

why they had never heard of it. Chief among these is Signor Francesco Cossiga.

As minister of the interior during the 1970s, he has already come under fire recently for his alleged failure to secure the release of Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat leader who was kidnapped and murdered by the Red Brigades.

This allegation, with the subsequent discovery of Operation Gladiator, has angered many Italians, who unsurprisingly resent the idea that their sovereignty had been undermined for years by the CIA.

The leader of the Independent Left party, Franco Bassi, called yesterday for the impeachment of President Cossiga, on the ground of failing to uphold Italy's sovereignty.

To calm the mounting political storm surrounding Operation Gladiator, Signor Andreotti yesterday ordered an investigating commission to examine all the allegations and to have unprecedented access to Italian state security files.

## Students march in France for more cash

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

TENS of thousands of high-school students took to the streets in towns and cities all over France yesterday in demonstrations that summoned up a distinct whiff of May 1968 and all that. The biggest turnout was in Paris, where about 30,000 young people marched on the National Assembly as deputies were preparing to debate the financial provisions of the new budget for education.

The Paris marchers set off under a single banner proclaiming "National Co-ordination of Lyceens", chanting rhythmic, occasionally rude, slogans directed at Lionel Jospin, the education minister. "More money, more teachers, more security" was a popular theme.

The Socialist government's protestations that more money is being spent on education today than ever before evidently cut no ice with those who have to cope with grossly overcrowded classrooms, lack of textbooks, and qualified teachers.

The pupils of the nation's lycées are clearly intent on regaining the momentum gathered by the first protests that began a month ago.

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# Her rhetoric gets results

Woodrow Wyatt

Why is she so abrasive? If only she were more polite and agreeably receptive to the views of our European partners she would have much more influence from the inside. There is a strong sense of *déjà vu* about these propositions. They emanate from the same people who attacked the prime minister in 1981 and 1984 for her strenuous campaign to reduce the overcharge in Britain's net EC contributions. They thought it anti-European of her to invite discord over a measly thousand million pounds or so, the surrender of which would make us more popular in Europe.

She ignored the vehement criticism of the great and good who swarm like rich 18th-century aristocrats in policy-making circles and who disdain vulgar squabbles over the size of a bill, particularly if the money is not theirs but the taxpayers'. But since she began her EC contribution battles we have had rebates worth £10 billion—not rebates given to a trivial tip that should have been given without fuss to a head waiter to show *bonne*.

There was the same distaste at her anger over the refusal to deal with the urgent matter of farm subsidies at the Rome summit. Strange, this was described as *non-communautaire*. Why not let the Germans, the French and the Italians happily continue at our expense huge subsidies to inefficient farmers whose votes may determine election result? But it was the Brussels Commission itself that was so keen on implementing the proposed farm subsidy cuts from 1986 to 1995 by 30 per cent which, allowing for reductions already made, would mean no more than 15 per cent now. Even Brussels saw the danger of the rest of the world being so infuriated by the wrecking of the Uruguay international Gatt round that they would put up harsh tariff barriers against the EC in reply to the Community's denial of access to its markets of cheaper farm products.

Mrs Thatcher is slammed for fighting for British interests. She is slammed for fighting for EC interests. She and those who agree with her are labelled "little Englanders", by those who are "little Europeans". They believe the EC can self-sufficiently ignore the outside world. The *Financial Times*, no friend of Mrs Thatcher, wrote on October 29 that with this posture the EC would be left examining "its economic, monetary and political navel— all the while watching the international trading system disintegrate around it". Of course, Mrs Thatcher could have fudged with emotive words. Her great value to Britain and the EC is that she never does. She forces the consideration of stark reality, however much it may temporarily offend genteel spirits who like to pretend it is not there.

At home they preferred to talk

about the distant goals of a single currency and a supreme central European bank. Mrs Thatcher disturbed the cosy conversation by demanding to know what such notions would lead to. We have been enthusiastic leaders in implementing the Single European Act, in tearing down commercial and trading barriers between the EC countries, despite the deliberate dallying behind some very far behind, of others. Enthusiasm for the extinction of our national identity by a federal Europe run from Brussels rests on its inevitability because of three words after the heading of a chapter in the Single European Act called "Co-operation in Economic and Monetary Policy". The words, and they are in brackets, are "economic and monetary union".

This is already happening without consent. Rightly or wrongly we have fully entered the European Monetary System by joining the exchange-rate mechanism. To go further into a single currency, a central European bank and complete political union would need an act of Parliament. Particularly as the words of the Single European Act require that "for the further development of the community, member states shall... take account of the experience acquired in co-operation within the framework of the EMS and in developing the ecu".

Britain's full membership of the EMS since last month is clearly insufficient experience on which to base any further steps. Nigel Lawson is an enthusiast for ERM, but on October 23 in the Commons he reiterated his vehement opposition to a single currency and a European central bank. "A single European currency means a federal Europe." Mr Lawson is in favour of independent central banks co-operating closely together but not of one dominating European central bank. Others who agree with him also know that Britain would be unable to make its own budget, fix its own taxation or set its own interest rates. QED: the end of any effective national sovereignty.

These issues are so grave that they should be decided by a national referendum some time after the next election. There is no hurry. Many objections will come from other EC members now that Mrs Thatcher in her blunt, fruitful way has started to make them look seriously at the implications. We shall not be left on the sidelines and without influence on the outcome. Meanwhile, Tories should forget the receding non-event of Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation, and trust John Major to get the economy right in time, and together with the prime minister and Douglas Hurd to deal wisely in Europe. Tory MPs should tell the opportunist Mr Heseltine to get lost without promoting a divisive leadership contest in which he would be the permanently discredited loser.

Which is the truth? Perhaps, if you are Saddam, you shrug and turn to reading the rubbish in your own newspapers. Arabs do not care too much for words. They look at what Mr Bush is actually doing. They see enough firepower in the Saudi Arabian desert to turn Baghdad into the proverbial parking lot. They also see an unprecedented alliance put together by a man who is even foreign leader's friend. Does he have it in him to make war? Does he have it in him not to make war? Who knows?

If the Iraqi dictator is asking these questions he is doing today what dozens of George Bush's opponents have done in the past: attempting to discover more about the man than he knows himself. This is no easy task. President Reagan had an agenda; President Carter, whose discredited record Mr Bush has been recalling on the stump this week, wore his heart on his sleeve; the affable President Ford is sometimes likened to Mr Bush; so is President Eisenhower, but both of those men had a testament only to man's need to keep the wolf at the far end of the garden path.

For the hack is disinclined to squander time on private epistle and journal which might be more profitably spent in cobbling a piece for *Plumbing Today*, or, indeed, a smarmy note to the Inland Revenue agent the deductability of new fitted carpet without which the productivity of creative premises might be seriously impaired. Yet the hack, too, years as much as the poet for posthumous bonus: it is not, of course, the prospect of immortality that moves him, merely the thought of leaving stuff behind that could be parlayed for a bob or two.

I do not claim that my boxes of unmarketable typescript will bring literary scholars caravanning down the pavements, nor that my long and fascinating correspondence with Lex Volvo will change the face of epistolary history as we know it (since Lex Volvo is not a fashionable Latin-American novelist but simply the organisation which supplied an estate car with an apparently irreparable clunk), but I have nevertheless taken steps to ensure that all this and more will, after I am dead, appear between the remunerative hard covers.

I have inserted a clause in my will insisting that all my unpublished work be published. I have specified the publisher, who I am utterly confident, will be unable to wriggle free of the paramount wishes of the deceased without a legal cost to himself considerably in excess of the advances I have taken pains to calculate and demand.

Not I guess, that he will want to. Why, with a modicum of luck, the juridical barney alone should flog a good few copies.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Yes, since you ask, it was a very busy weekend indeed. I spent the whole of it rewriting my will. I suppose I should amplify that terse announcement, if only to settle the fluttering breasts of those who might believe themselves to be my legatees, and who are even now muttering "blimey, has he to be some will? it has taken him two days to rewrite it, he must have more than anyone guessed. I always thought there was something a bit fly about him, I wonder who gets the chain of casinos, I wonder who gets the Reeperbahn flophouses. I wonder who gets the uncatalogued Van Goghs and the lost dinner service of Tutankhamun?

Forget it. It was not the rewriting that took the weekend, it was the rereading of that with which the rewriting was concerned. I have been going through my unpublished works. I have been sorting them out into teetering piles. I have been putting them into cardboard boxes. Only when that was done did I rewrite the will.

You will, I know, have been following the Larkin cause *macabre*. How could you have missed it? For weeks, not only have the casements of Fitzrovia rattled to the din of grinding axes, the furor has spilled over into every public print and on to every public channel, as those who have never read a line of poetry throw their two penn'orth into the posthumous tussle between an unacknowledged legislator of the world and the battalions of acknowledged ones. I shall say nothing of that, since so much has already been said that the words expended on whether Larkin wanted his unpublished stuff destroyed now considerably outnumber the words of his published stuff, and anyway, this is about me.

Perhaps nothing so distinguishes the poet from the hack as his attitude towards his unpublished work. The poet's attitude is full of stuff he wouldn't publish, the hack's only stuff he couldn't. For one thing, there is never anything a hack is so ashamed of writing that it prevents him from seeking someone who is not ashamed of

publishing it, and for another, while the poet's ditty-boxes are crammed with letters, notebooks, diaries, well-turned suicide notes for such deployment as future despair might require and various other private scribblings, all of which stand testament to man's need to express the innermost churning of his soul, the hack's have nothing in them except those agglomerations of correspondence and invoice which stand testament only to man's need to keep the wolf at the far end of the garden path.

For the hack is disinclined to squander time on private epistle and journal which might be more profitably spent in cobbling a piece for *Plumbing Today*, or, indeed, a smarmy note to the Inland Revenue agent the deductability of new fitted carpet without which the productivity of creative premises might be seriously impaired. Yet the hack, too, years as much as the poet for posthumous bonus: it is not, of course, the prospect of immortality that moves him, merely the thought of leaving stuff behind that could be parlayed for a bob or two.

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The Times Profile: George Bush. The American president faces a crucial test of standing in elections today and a giant decision soon on when to go to war

# The pilot flies on instinct



to think of himself as a pragmatist, but pragmatists know where they're going. I don't know where George Bush is going or where he is taking us. I don't think that he does either.

This line of criticism does not, however, take the opponent very far. The idea that George Bush "lacks a vision" has become an inadequate cliché: it has always been dangerous for Bush opponents to move from a perception of him as a "nowhere man" to that of a "nothing man". Manuel Noriega made that mistake when he thought that his long links with the president and his other American friends would protect him in his Panama City palace. Michael Dukakis got the answer wrong when he thought that the Bush presidential campaign would be as decent as the man himself.

Meanwhile, George Bush has reached the half-way point of what is still a remarkably successful first presidential term. A few months ago he was so popular that no Democrat opponents had taken the trouble to prepare for a White House bid in 1992, hoping to wait for a crack at Dan Quayle in 1996. He had won wide praise for his careful creative approach to the collapse of communist power.

**N**ow he has only normal levels of presidential mid-term support. Opponents, including the New York Governor Mario Cuomo and Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia are finally gathering in the Democratic ranks. In his own party the right takes of putting up the isolationist conservative, Patrick Buchanan, for a primary show

of dissent. Loyalist campaign

shouts of "Bush, Bush, Bush"

have been met this week by right-wing replies of "Squish, squish, squish"; and Republicans still squirm at the débâcles over the budget. But outside Washington, it is hard to discern deep popular disquiet about George Bush. Although he has not shown himself a strong positive leader, he enjoys enormous respect.

It is true that he was decisively rejected when, seeking support for his tax-raising budget compromise, he appealed on television over the heads of his colleagues to the American people. But the trouble with that budget appeal, according to an aide who has worked for both Bush and Reagan, was that a president who believed in reaching solutions behind closed doors was not being true to himself. In the Reagan era, most of the response to a television message was prepared in advance: the phone-ins to congressmen were organised. Unless he is fighting an election, and not always even then, George Bush can't be doing well with that stuff.

The 41st president of the United States has never been called a man of ideas. It is hard to think of any

serious thought to which his name can be attached. Last year some friendly commentators tried to formulate a "Bush doctrine" out of the mass of reactions to the death of communism. Last week, at a dinner of sympathetic Republican supporters, no one could remember quite what the doctrine was, but nobody thought that mattered very much.

In the past few weeks he has

been in open war with his own

party machine, but bad results,

unless they are unprecedentedly bad, are unlikely to inflict serious damage on the president's personal standing.

A cock-a-hoop Congress of Democrats may make certain acts of government harder,

but the president has long per-

fected the art of putting trouble in its place. He is a genuinely well-

balanced man. He does not elevate politics too high.

This week, after months of smug

budget summaries with Democratic leaders, he set off on the campaign trail, bashing them for taxing and

spending and backstabbing as

though they were enemis of

Saddam Hussein. Only if one

treated sumptuous speeches like a

parade around the southern states

as the president did at the week-

end. The man who was a Republi-

cian congressman in the Sixties,

Republican national committee

director and CIA chief in the

Seventies, vice-president and

president in the Eighties, as to be

seen as the "outsider" of the

Nineties. He bashes the villains of

Washington as though he had

never even visited the place; but it

is without malice.

No political opponent would

see his native country may also ban the book, after Egyptian newspapers labelled him another Salman Rushdie. "I have deeply offended Jews and Christians but I do not apologise for what I have written. It is carefully researched. I have had threats and I may go into hiding if they get worse. The book has caused deep offence in Egypt. There is widespread anger that I have suggested one of our most famous pharaohs was the son of an Israeli mother. The Jews object to the fact I say Moses is an Egyptian."

Osman is no stranger to con-

troversey.

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## GERMAN INTERESTS

A year after the Berlin Wall was opened, Germany's weight in the European balance of power is palpably greater than at any time since 1945. The reunited country's size and wealth inspire respect. The German achievement is qualitative as well as quantitative. A federal constitution of proven stability and efficacy, besides a political and economic elite of high calibre, have contributed to a revived impression across Europe of effortless German superiority. In Helmut Kohl, the Germans possess – and are certain to re-elect next month – the most successful, if not the most profound, European politician of his generation. What are the implications?

German foreign policy has long been remarkably consistent. Since the same man, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, has been foreign minister for the past 16 years under both ruling parties, that consistency is not surprising. Even if Herr Genscher were to retire after the election, his successor may be expected to continue in the master's footsteps. In public, his policy has blended a cold ideological agnosticism with woolly federalism. German national interests are vigorously asserted when they matter – notably over agriculture – but well away from the gaze of his British admirers.

Helmut Kohl is a more straightforward German patriot, though coalition politics have inhibited him from giving free rein to his fondness for the Fatherland ideal. But as his mastery of both *Deutschlandpolitik* and *Ostpolitik* has grown over the past year, so the tone of German foreign policy has become less ingratiating and more peremptory. Especially since what German diplomats call "the miracle of the Caucasus" – last summer's deal with President Gorbachev, which cleared the way for a reunited Germany to belong to Nato – Herr Kohl's negotiating manner has even bordered on the insufferable.

Herr Kohl began to realise, probably in early 1988, that Mr Gorbachev was not a communist version of Joseph Goebbels. After his old rival, Franz-Josef Strauss, returned from Moscow with hints that Mr Gorbachev might

no longer be committed to the Honecker régime, the chancellor saw he should sit down with the bear. By the following winter, he too was in Moscow, with only Mrs Thatcher expressing concern about concessions he might make in return for Soviet promises.

Herr Kohl saw off her challenge in the spring of 1989, when President Bush failed to insist on the modernisation of Lance missiles – Mrs Thatcher's test of German loyalty. With a Soviet promise of self-determination for the German nation in his pocket, Herr Kohl was ready for the coming upheaval in central Europe. His ten point plan for reunification, produced within days of November 9, left his countrymen cheering and his allies floundering.

He has carried on thus ever since over the border dispute with Poland, which he handled with considerable insensitivity; over first German and now European monetary union; over farm prices and the Gatt round; this week over European policy towards Iraq. Herr Kohl is conducting his foreign policy not as Europe sees fit, but as he sees fit. The tradition is not so much that of Adenauer (who deferred to Washington and Paris) as of Stresemann or the later Bismarck. Like them, he pursues a cautious but determined strategy, designed to forge a new balance of power after the demise of the old.

Herr Kohl's long-term aim now seems disturbingly vast: a European state fashioned on the model of the Federal Republic. His insistence that German interests should not be overridden in a future European federation is legitimate nationalism, a nationalism he shares with Mrs Thatcher. His ill-disguised opinion that Europe's foreign policy should be synonymous with Germany's – from admitting Eastern Europe to the Community to sending Willy Brandt to Baghdad – is presumptuous.

As long as Herr Kohl continues to speak the language of the federalist 1950s, while engaging in the nationalist power politics of the 1990s, he cannot be surprised to be treated by other Europeans with coolness.

## MERGING SATELLITES

The merger of Sky Television (whose parent company also owns *The Times*) and British Satellite Broadcasting raises important questions of public policy. Broadcasting naturally stirs the political juices and the merger is already controversial. Owners of *The Times*, both now and previously under the Thomson family, have long had an interest in other media, including television. Even the Astor family, owners before the Thomsens, considered a television shareholding. Television profits helped Lord Thomson to maintain *The Times*. Most quality newspapers have at some time been subsidised from other business.

Such cross-ownership has been beneficial. Readers' choice of newspapers, and thus of a range of opinion, would be curtailed without it. Nor is there anything inherently wrong in vertical or horizontal diversification, as between the press, publishing and broadcasting. The only proviso is that such integration should not so impede competition as to operate against the public interest.

The merger of Sky and BSB has certainly run into criticism on this score. Through the BSB satellite franchise, Mr Murdoch, an American citizen, now has 50 per cent of a British satellite service. The law says a non-EC national cannot control such a service. He also now has more than 20 per cent of a British television franchise (that is, the former BSB licence). In the past, the government has outlawed so large a holding by a newspaper proprietor, largely to avoid regional media monopolies. Ministers have yet to judge whether this rule will be retained in the regulations to be introduced under its new broadcasting law.

These difficulties could be circumvented by the new merged company abandoning the old BSB franchise, with its satellite, squalid and D-MAC system, and concentrating offshore on Astra. That would evade the letter, if not the spirit, of the current regulatory regime. But there is no point in the regulators forcing such circumvention as long as the merger is not against the public interest. Is it?

## REGENT STREET WISDOM

This year Christmas decorations appeared in London's Regent Street in the last week of October – still in British Summer Time. Nothing better illustrates the plight of West End retailing than the fact that "Christmas" now lasts more than two months and is celebrated in a style more appropriate to Blackpool's Golden Mile. While the shopping streets of New York, Paris and Stockholm celebrate the season with a stylish filigree of white lights, Regent Street chooses crude plastic cartoon, slung across the street with no respect for architecture or aesthetics.

With the support of Westminster Council, the street's landlords, the Crown Estate, are pushing ahead with proposals for a £4 million upgrading of Regent Street's "furniture". Lamp standards, litter bins, railings and bollards are all to be redesigned to accord with the Edwardian architecture. Despite the customary howl of abuse that greets every plan for urban improvement, this attempt is worthwhile. The ugliness that blights so many London streets lies not just in poor upkeep but in deplorable furniture design.

Regent Street, the very heart of the capital's shopping industry, has been spoilt by municipal clutter intended to speed the traffic, as well as by insensitive shop fronts and signs. The great houses of Austin Reed, Liberty, Peter Robinson and Aquascutum are now jostled by high street multiples blaring their wares with standardised corporate design. The proposed street furniture is at least in keeping with the flamboyant style of the facades.

If individual items are unsuitable, that does not invalidate the general principle of improving the environment in harmony with the character of the street, rather than in harmony with the taste, or lack of it, of municipal supplies de-

Satellite broadcasting is in its infancy, facing huge technological difficulties and fighting the terrestrial duopoly of the BBC and ITV companies. Millions of pounds have been poured into satellites, dishes and product, proving far more costly than originally expected. This cross-subsidy has come from a wide range of newspaper and television companies, including Granada and the *Financial Times*, hoping in due course to see profits flow the other way. These interests bring to broadcasting a natural synergy, both as suppliers of news, sport and arts journalism and as part of the entertainment business.

Were the new satellite company to establish a dominant position in television, then there would be a case for monopolies regulation to come into play. Parliament is right to be concerned that media outlet for opinion in Britain is not constricted by corporate aggrandisement. Legislation is in place to guard against this.

Such a concern cannot at present be said to apply to this particular merger. Satellite channels enjoy barely 30 per cent of viewing even within the 2.3 million homes able to receive such television. They have roughly a 2 per cent market share of the television audience. In addition, the offshore Astra satellite itself has numerous other channels available to competitors. Separately, the two companies simply would not have survived. Together, they stand a chance of offering limited competition to the existing BBC/ITV duopoly.

Undoubtedly the affair has made the government's new-found regulatory regime for television look tattered. Ministers are reviewing the secondary legislation promised by the broadcasting bill: the experience of the past two years of satellite broadcasting clearly demands a new licensing policy. The Office of Fair Trading is already looking into the competitive implications of the merger. In judging the pros and cons, there should be only one question: what offers viewers the widest possible choice?

parts. The essence of Regent Street is the presence of big West End stores. To retain their appeal to Londoners and visitors, they need help from good planning. The department store offers a service that complements the smaller specialist shops of Soho, Covent Garden and Knightsbridge. But such shops will thrive only if they can keep the street outside their front doors clean and tidy, their surroundings attractive and public transport efficient.

The key to this improvement, in the Regent Street of tomorrow as in many European streets today, is ruthless traffic control. Traffic is noisy, dirty and restricts pedestrian freedom to roam. Its relatively free movement through the heart of the West End may help office commuters and prosperous country visitors. It is no help to shopkeepers. Even Bond Street, long attached to the idea that its plutocratic customers should not have to leave their Rolls-Royces some distance away, has suffered as a result. Space for people to move about on foot is now recognised as a magnet for shoppers – witness the piazza at Covent Garden or pedestrianised South Molton Street and Leicester Square.

Regent Street would not be itself without a few red buses chugging down its length. That apart, nothing would do more to enhance the street's visual appeal than pedestrianisation. Regent Street may never recapture the small-scale stucco charm of Nash's Quadrant, but its Victorian and Edwardian buildings still form a magnificent promenade. To replace its miserable furniture, to ban standardised shopfronts, to clear it of traffic and plant it with trees would recreate this great avenue as one of the noblest in Europe.

## Hunting on National Trust land

From Sir Richard Acland

Sir, Last Saturday, at the National Trust's AGM, a group whom I describe as the "idealists" won a narrow majority to veto the hunting of deer on Trust property (reports, November 5). They are thus described because their argument reduces to seven words: "Hunting causes pain to deer, abolish it!"

Following the previous five heads of my family, who seldom, if ever, hunted, I have always supported the argument of those I describe as "realists": "Those who would abolish the hunt will turn more than 90 per cent of Exmoor farmers from the warm friends into the deadly enemies of the deer, and thus enormously increase the pain they suffer".

From time to time farmers, who love deer, report the presence of an injured animal in their woods. Fifty-seven times in the latest available year the hunts have sent out a few hours to track down these animals and have them put out of pain by bullet. Many had dangerous wounds filled with maggots; their bellies gnawed by rats and their eyes pecked out by jackdaws. In this one hunting saves deer more pain than it causes.

Last summer I suggested to the principal officers of the Trust that they use their considerable resources to convey this realism to the members. But they preferred to keep a low profile, relying on a legalistic argument about it being for Parliament, not for the Trust, to abolish hunting on Trust land. As if there were any prospect of keeping heat out of the idealists' argument!

I suggest to the Trust Council that they now give notice of a motion for the AGM of 1991 to rescind what was carried last week and that they then support it by an adequate campaign based on

### Insurance medicals

From the Chief Executive of the Association of British Insurers

Sir, Dr Smith (October 26) suggests that people having a medical examination in connection with a life insurance proposal should be given the results. There are a number of reasons why this would not be appropriate.

The examining doctor is asked not to pass on the results because he is not in possession of complete information, relevant to underwriting the proposal. For example, certain medical tests may be undertaken separately and there may be aspects of past medical history which do not emerge from the examination.

For insurance companies themselves to provide medical results would come between the doctor-patient relationship which is so important. In practice, if an

insurance medical reveals a serious condition of which the individual may not have been aware, either the examining doctor will suggest that the patient sees his own family doctor or the chief medical officer of the insurance company will do so, having first obtained written permission from the life-assured to pass the examination result to the family doctor.

Insurance companies are not denying the life assured details of examinations, but where appropriate are directing this sensitive information to the doctor responsible for the health care of the patient.

Yours faithfully,  
M. A. JONES, Chief Executive, Association of British Insurers, Alderman House, 10-15 Queen Street, EC4.

October 29.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Elusive shadow of the 'Fifth Man'

From Mr Nigel West

Sir, Lord Armstrong of Ilminster (November 2) seems to prefer the uncorroborated testimony of a single KGB lieutenant-colonel than the 18 British intelligence personnel who gave evidence during the Fluency committee's enquiries, set up in 1964 to investigate Soviet penetration of the Security Service, that there was evidence of penetration until 1963.

It may well be that Oleg Gordievsky is correct but his "revelations" to date do not inspire much confidence. The book co-authored recently contains almost no new information, not a single unpublished cryptonym, but much material that is demonstrably false.

Take, for example, his assertion that "Orion Kunich" was a KGB defector (p. 404, 708). In fact no such person ever existed. Similarly, much of what Gordievsky has to say about Anthony Blunt is either contradictory or patently untrue. As for his suggestion that Leo Long's Soviet codename was ELLI, the chronology cited by Gordievsky is entirely wrong.

Contrary to Lord Armstrong's recollection, Cairncross's status as a member of the KGB's Ring-of-Five is not "new to many". In *Moilean*, published in 1987, I wrote: "Burgess, Maclean, Philby and Cairncross had all been members of the group known as the Ring-of-Five" (p. 37).

There is a long tradition of Soviet intelligence defectors deliberately embroidering their "meal-ticket" to exaggerate their status. Gordievsky has already been caught out claiming to have been "the most senior Soviet intelligence officer ever to have worked for the West" (*Time* magazine) and to have been the KGB's top man in London. In fact he was neither.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL WEST  
310 Fulham Road, SW10.  
November 4.

From Mr James Rusbridge

Sir, As Lord Armstrong knows the truth can sometimes be an economical commodity and, therefore, before he accepts Mr Gordievsky's claims about Mr Cairncross he should consider what evidence exists to substantiate them.

When Mr Gordievsky's allegations about the "Fifth Man" were first peddled to the media, it was claimed they were based on his "unprecedented access" to KGB archives, a statement which the

need to lobby for extra money if the EC reconsidered its budgetary priorities. The Community currently spends £10 billion annually through the common agricultural policy on preventing the market to function freely; ironically, this is the same amount which the BERD was given to build free markets in the East.



## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 5: The Queen held a Council at 5.30 p.m.

There were present: the Right Hon. John MacGregor, M.P. (Lord President); the Lord Belfast (Lord Privy Seal); the Right Hon. Kenneth Clarke, M.P. (Secretary of State for Education and Science) and the Right Hon. William Waldegrave, M.P. (Secretary of State for Health).

The Right Hon. John MacGregor took the Oath of Office and kissed hands on his appointment as Lord President of the Council.

The Right Hon. Kenneth Clarke received the Seals of Office as Secretary of State for Education and Science, took the Oath of Office and kissed hands on appointment.

The Right Hon. William Waldegrave received the Seals of Office and kissed hands on his appointment.

Mr Geoffrey de Deney was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Right Hon. John MacGregor had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

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The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, attended a dinner in

support of the Commonwealth Study Conference to be held in 1992 at Barclays Bank, Royal Mint Court, London EC3.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 5: The Princess Royal visited HMS TALENT and was received at Preswick by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Ayrshire and Arran (Colonel Bryce Knox).

Mr Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

This evening Her Royal Highness, Honorary Liverman, the Worshipful Company of Woolmen, attended a Liver Dinner, Saddlers' Hall, London EC2, and was received by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor (Sir Hugh Bidwell).

Mrs Malcolm Innes was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE The Prince of Wales, President, Salisbury Cathedral Spire Trust, attended the Lord Mayor Sir Maurice Laing and Mr Terence Cuneo.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Help the Aged, attended the Golden Awards lunch at the London Hilton, Park Lane, W1.

Mrs Max Pike and Squadron Leader David Barton, R.A.F., were in attendance.

## Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at 11.00.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as an Honorary Fellow of the Plastics and Rubber Institute, will present the Prince Philip award at Buckingham Palace at 11.00; as an honorary member of the Formula 1 Air Racing Association, will present the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will visit the Shire Hall, Hereford, at 12.00; Mid-Glamorgan County Hall, at 12.30; Bedau Community and Sports Centre at 2.00; and the British Gas Training School at 3.20.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the British School of Osteopathy, will attend the annual general assembly at the Assembly Hall, Church House Conference Centre, Deans Yard, Westminster, at 11.00; as President of the Save the Children Fund, will attend a meeting of the Industry and Commerce Group at Buckingham Palace at 4.00; and, as Patron of the University of the West Indies Development and Endowment Appeal, will attend a gala evening at Garrard and Company at 7.45.

Prince Michael of Kent, as Patron of the Hyde Park appeal, will open the Dorchester ride at noon; and, as President of the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention, will attend the annual Westminster lecture of the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre at 6.00.

## Birthdays today

Lord Avonside, 76; Dr J.P. Barber, pro-vice-chancellor and sub-

warden, Durham University, 59; Professor Lord Bauer, 75; Mr James T. Bowman, countertenor, 49; Mr Frank Carson, comedian, 64; Mr C.A. Christpher, trades unionist, 58; Sir K.B. Griffin, economist, 72; Mr Nigel Havers, actor, 39; Mr Bernard Kallis, designer, 68; Mr Leonard Maltz, search historian, 76; Mr David Montgomery, editor, Today, 42; Admiral Sir Anthony Morton, 67; Mr Mike Nichols, film director, 59; Lieutenant-General Sir David Ramshorn, 56; Professor Sir Martin Roth, psychiatrist, 73; Sir Oliver Scott, radio-biologist, 68; Major-General James Scott Elliot, 88; Sir George Sinclair, population and development advisor, 78; Sir John Smith, former chairman, Sports Council, 70; Mr M.T. Thyne, headmaster, Fettes College, 48; Sir Gordon Waddington, diplomat, 82.

The Princess of Wales will visit St Luke's Hospice, Basildon, at 10.10; as Patron of the Guinness Trust, will visit the trust's housing for the homeless at

scope. Aberdeen, 1638; Colley Cibber, actor-manager and dramatist, London, 1671; Adolphe Sax, inventor of the saxophone, Dinant, Belgium, 1814; Charles Cocker, architect, Paris, 1823; Cesare Lombroso, criminologist, Verona, 1835; Richard Jefferson, naturalist, near Swindon, 1848; John Philip Sousa, the "March King", composer and band conductor, Washington, 1854; Ignace Paderewski, pianist, composer and prime minister of Poland 1919, Kurskowka, 1960; Sir John Alcock, aviator, 1910.

DEATHS: Heinrich Schutz, composer, Dresden, 1672; Katz Greenaway, artist and book illustrator, London, 1901; William Gully, 1st Viscount Selby, speaker of the House of Commons 1895-1905; Seaford, Sussex, 1909; Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, actor-manager, Margaret Bay, Kent, 1937.

Abraham Lincoln was elected as 16th president of the USA (1861-65), 1860. The borders between East and West Germany were thrown open, 1989.

## Church news

BIRTHS: James Gregory, in-

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The Rev. Keith Haywood, Assistant Curate, Fazley, Peat parishes, died, Linton, North Yorkshire, of St Luke's name disease, 1990.

The Rev. Brian J. Lewis, Vicar, Belford, diecose Hexham, to be succeeded by Rev. Canon Dr. Michael J. Morris, 1990.

The Rev. Maurice A. Horsey, Parish Priest of St. Thomas, Wetherby, diecose of York, died, same disease, 1990.

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# Sex and the singular store

Underwear is lacy, flirty and sexy again, says Marks & Spencer. And it should know, says Liz Smith

The close-fitting clothes and short, straight skirts in fashion today would seem to demand the sleek base of a stretchy bodysuit or smooth-line bra and knickers. So who could have predicted the demand for the lacy, scalloped styles that women are buying today? Marks & Spencer, of course.

The store chain where one woman in three in Britain buys her underwear understands better than most the need for more luxurious bodyshapers to wear underneath a short, shapely suit. M&S can measure the success of flirtier styles in tons of lace and millions of miles of soft Jacquard satin. The company has watched as customers switched from basic bras (women buy 1.6 each a year) and "three-to-a-pack" knickers (five pairs a year) to more glamorous underwear smoothed in lace and trimmed with pearls and ribbon.

Forget "natural" bras; according to M&S, female customers today want some engineering to shape, uplift and emphasise curves. Women have tired of the severely sporty, asexual lines of the Eighties and feel free to indulge again in underwear that is flirty and fun.

M&S sells 70 million pieces of underwear a year (excluding nightwear). Laurie Oppenheim, the merchandise manager for M&S lingerie, therefore speaks with some authority when he describes the world's favourite bra. "Underwired, in all-over stretch 'Fern' lace, £7.99," he says. "It went into the stores in August and instantly went to number one in all our stores, whether in Madrid, Barnsley or Toronto. That probably means it is the best-selling bra in the world."

M&S has observed that bosoms are getting bigger, too. Today the average size bra is a 36C cup, compared with the 34B of five years ago. This statistic should not be taken to suggest that silicone breast implants are common practice on the National Health Service. "Women may be blustier, but they are also more careful than before to buy the right



Simers from St Michael: lacy bra and briefs from the best-selling Pearls range (left), and softly scalloped satin camisole and French knickers



sized bra," Mr Oppenheim says.

When he describes the success of Pearls, his department's latest line in underwear, Mr Oppenheim can hardly conceal his excitement. "It is going a riot," he says. Pearls, which made its debut in September and is now the top-selling line in all branches, includes bras (from £7.99), and briefs (£4.50), camisoles (£9.99), slips (£10.99) and French knickers (£7.99) in satin Jacquard lavishly trimmed with lace.

The outline for Pearls, and every other autumn 1990 line, was hammered out between buyers in the three lingerie departments at a meeting in the M&S headquarters in Baker Street in June 1989. "Women obviously wanted more glamour," Mr Oppenheim explains. "We noted the move away from man-made

story unfolding from a fragment of lace spotted in Calais to an international saga involving 240 looms and four dye works in Japan creating 1.6 million yards of Jacquard satin, and lace-makers in Nottingham and Calais weaving 2,750 miles of lace.

"We linked the trend for prettier detailing to fashion changes in outerwear. Gaultier's fondness for revealing underwear has definitely influenced the market. Women like to wear wrapover blouses that reveal something pretty underneath, so we supply something pretty."

Suppliers were instructed accordingly, and the lifecycle of the Pearls range began. Rosemary Hancock, the fashion director of Sheers, a division of Courtaulds and a

major supplier of underwear to M&S, spotted a fragment of Leavers lace in a factory in Calais that fitted the brief she had just been set by M&S buyers.

A sample length of polyester Jacquard satin was woven in Japan, using the lace as the idea for its all-over pattern. Mr Oppenheim and his team were enthusiastic. Eight different types of lace were developed from the original sample, including stretch lace for straps and other forms for edging and to inset as decoration.

The underwear technology department then had to "pull every garment apart" to check quality. Co-ordinating the production of 15 different pieces of underwear in matching fabric and lace is always tricky. A bra, constructed to 25 different sizes and with around 15 component pieces, takes longer to develop than a camisole that involves only a bit of stitching.

Colours for the Pearls range were limited to cream and black, plus ruby as the additional "sexy" shade for autumn to be delivered to 160 stores. And the pearl stitched to the centre of a bra or pair of bikini briefs provided the name for the line.

Bravo!

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at RICHARDS

## Cut a dash and play by ear

With the help of a letter opener, you could play a tune on your jewellery

"MOLTOGLEE" is the word Annie Sherburne coined to describe the wearable musical instrument jewellery she is selling at a Crafts Council-backed one-person show in London this month.

These unconventional pieces, in painted wood, were created in conjunction with Brian Stapleton, who specialises in making Aeolian harps and ukuleles. Sung over the shoulder, they look like decorative ethnic necklaces. Tuned up, they play like tiny four-stringed guitars.

Moltogles are pleasing enough to hang as sculptures, yet even the least lyrical will

tempted to pluck them. Who will buy a Moltogee? "It's inevitable that they will be collectors' pieces because of their price — about £1,000 each," says Ms Sherburne, who works from a studio in Rotherhithe, southeast London. "But we are hoping to get a group of alternative musicians together to play the seven instruments, which are all different. We've found you can play them rather well using a letter opener as a bow."

Ms Sherburne began creating jewellery when she was 14. She described her brooches, necklaces and earrings as "portable art". She did not train formally in jewellery-making, although an embroidery course at Goldsmiths College sparked her appetite for felt-making and decorative knitting. Spotted by Jean Muir shortly after leaving college, she produced two jewellery ranges a year for the company for eight years, also coming up with her own eccentric annual collection.

Unusual jewellery in her show includes Indian-inspired animal and plant-shaped brooches and colourful interpretations of jazz and dance. Some pieces have "homes" into which they slot for wall displays when not being worn.

"I like the idea of being painterly while still giving my pieces a practical application," she says. Making hand-tufted wool rugs is her newest enthusiasm. Like Ms Sherburne's jewellery, the rugs are richly coloured and tactile. So far she has tufted a huge fish, starfish, lizard with daffodil, a shield and a violin.

NICOLE SWENGEY

Annie Sherburne's jewellery accessories show runs to November 25 at the Crafts Council shop, Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7.

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"Portable art": Annie Sherburne and one of her Moltogles

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TM15/90

# Philippe Starck, come on down!

A new Channel 4 game show is aiming to prove that design is accessible, popular, and part of everyone's life

WHAT does Molly Parkin know about design? And what light can Drummin of Aswad, the pop group, Michael Heath the cartoonist, and television presenters Paul Morley, Sebastian Scott and Magenta de Vine throw on the matter?

The answer to this and a host of other questions about design will be revealed later this month when *Eye 2 Eye*, a new quiz show on Channel 4, is launched on Channel 4.

The five-part series is devised and co-produced by David Davies Associates, and design consultants and Covent Garden clothes and furnishing retailers, whose work includes packaging, corporate identity and interior design for such names as British Airways, Boots, and Marks & Spencer.

Although the company has produced corporate videos, *Eye 2 Eye* is its first move into television. The show also represents one of television's first attempts to cover design in a prime-time slot.

As a rule, television has tended either to fight shy of the subject altogether or to cover it in a specialised way, as in the BBC's *Design Awards*. Mr Davies argues that this approach is lazy, backward-looking and ultimately damaging to the design industry. "The *Design Awards* were depressing," he says. "They were so very in-house, made by the design industry for the design industry. Programmes like that reinforce most people's idea of design as elitist and inaccessible, rather than something that touches their everyday lives."

Like Mr Davies, Waldemar Januszczak, Channel 4's commissioning editor on the arts, has felt for some time the need for a design programme that eschews the traditional high-falutin approach in favour of something accessible and popular. "This quiz-based format seemed to me a way of getting people interested in design without preaching at them," Mr Januszczak says.

In an effort not to intimidate the uninitiated, *Eye 2 Eye* will mix specialist panellists — including designers such as Philippe Starck, Nigel Coates and Eva Jircin — with celebrities and television personalities. They will be asked questions on topics such as design movements and cultural trends, and invited to identify various kinds of packaging and to pontificate on the design properties of anything from a training shoe to a fountain pen.

For Mr Davies, *Eye 2 Eye* offers a welcome opportunity for his company to move away from its core business into one of today's few growth industries. The UK design industry and related fields are in the doldrums, making it difficult for consultancies to expand in obvious directions such as conferences and ex-

hibitions. But the boom in broadcasting makes it a relatively safe area for a new venture. Mr Davies has plans to capitalise on *Eye 2 Eye* with a number of other projects, including a possible series on homes and interiors.

By the same token, *Eye 2 Eye* seems tailor-made for Channel 4's upmarket yet-accessible programming policy. An added bonus is that it will cost very little to make. An average 30-minute quiz or game show can be produced for between £7,000 and £8,000. Even the best-looking examples such as *Blind Date* cost at most £20,000 per half hour. So compared with drama, which costs around 20 times as much, quiz shows — which occupy 30 hours of UK airtime each week — are a cheap way of filling schedules. They also attract predictable, and sizeable, audiences.

Yet the quiz show format in itself does not guarantee suc-



Seeing *Eye 2 Eye*: David Davies

'It may not register audiences on the *Blind Date* scale... but it will be fun'

Bravo!

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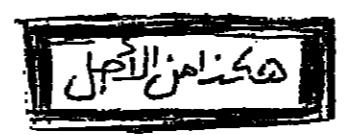
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## REVIEWS

## Wistful for a Geordie past

Disillusioned: Tim Healy as Bob in Alan Plater's *Going Home*

## THEATRE

Going Home  
Newcastle Playhouse

THE writer Alan Plater is in love with Australia. Tyneside, football and jazz. He hates the parks, fast food joints, monetarism and Muzak. Astringency, therefore, might be expected in this study of a Geordie returning to Newcastle from Australia after 30 years' absence.

There is certainly nostalgia: a vein of bittersweet wistfulness for what is irretrievably lost, a note struck often in Plater's work, especially in television where the medium's intimacy and flexibility lend themselves to revisiting time and place. At the Newcastle Playhouse a local audience laughs knowingly (but not without pride) at the homecoming's aghast reaction to "the largest commercial complex in Europe", the Metro Centre ("it used to be called Gateshead"), to the litany of demolished pubs and theatres, and the old mate, now a plutocratic developer, whose idea of attending a football match is to swing champagne in an executive box and watch a monitor screen. To a certain degree, the same story can be told of most of our great cities since the 1960s.

Uniquely Geordie, however, is the warm-hearted robustness, the resilience in the face of hard knocks, without Birmingham's dourness or Liverpool's self-pity. The piece works best in the interplay between Bob (Tim Healy), his disillusion with the new Tyneside edged with cheerful Australian brashness, and his rediscovered family: sister Mary and her glam husband. These

roles are beautifully played. Su Elliott is not chinless, bedraggled or scrawny but wonderfully contrives to look all three, and David Whitaker, so humourless that he looks on the point of tears, is the brother-in-law guilty of the cardinal sin of being a Sunderland supporter. The warmth of family relationships, the sometimes baffled tenderness of incomprehension, and the delighted discovery of redeeming features in the unlikeliest material show Plater's assessment at its kindliest and most acute.

Some of the plot's contrivances fit in uneasily. The unknown girl who watched the lads play football 30 years ago and whom Bob shyly fancied turns out now to be married to the profiteer. Bob's long lyrical paean to Australia, his account of Gough Whitlam's failed revolution, and the Anglo-American conspiracy, are jaw-widely. The old mate who sold out, excellently played by Mike Elliott, is too much the double-dyed villain: the idealistic left-winger who now owns clubs and restaurants (one in a converted church where, to his annoyance, the font has been listed) and outrages Bob with his racism. The Australian elements seem to belong to a different play.

To music from an on-stage jazz combo led by Ian Carr on trumpet, Max Roberts' production unfolds fluently with trucks providing restaurant, living room and football ground, and even a bench complete with gloomy family group emerging from a trapdoor. The drama of nostalgia, with Bob conjuring up his dead father for advice, comes off better than the political tract; but that may be the play's fault.

MARTIN HOYLE

Tippett is a far more intuitive, and thus less orderly, composer. His music is notoriously awkward in layout, but that is an apt reflection of the jumble of ideas it seeks to articulate. Tippett perhaps stands to Messiaen as Mahler does to Bruckner: the former composers "embrace the world", and all its paradoxes and contradictions, in their music: the latter drive on single-mindedly towards an affirmation of one faith.

The progress is often oblique and sometimes perversely opaque. Yet at the end the listener feels not resentment but wonder, like a child who has been taken by the hand and led into a gigantic funfair – but a funfair where the rides are metaphysical adventures.

Few composers possess this kind of open-ended, visionary mind. In fact, many composers of genius are quite the opposite: brilliant calculators, but within closed systems of thought. In our century, both Stravinsky and Britten were of the latter variety; nearly every piece they wrote tackles, and solves perfectly, a clearly defined problem. Even Messiaen, who deals in themes as cosmic as Tippett's, does so within a closed philosophical system – mystical Catholicism – and with strictly ordered musical means.

Intuition is dangerous, in that the quality of the product is liable to be uneven. The best parts of *The Mask* are those which are rampantly descriptive: the bizarre choral cacophony representing the jungle and culminating in the stunning shout of "mendel"; tribal dances of immense rhythmic vigour; a delightfully impish sardou; to represent paradise; or the inexorably crushing rush of music which accompanies Shelley's dreadful vision of Time like a careering chariot with a blindfolded driver. Other parts, however, have a more dutiful feel, as though Tippett the philosopher was pulling the work down avenues which struck no great spark in Tippett the composer.

Saturday's performance had remarkable emotive power – a tribute to Davis and to a fervent team of soloists (Fay Robinson, Felicity Palmer, Robert Tear, John Cheek). At its close the 85-year-old composer came onto the platform, bestowing kisses liberally on male and female alike, and the audience rose as one to him. "The human beating heart can never be burnt up utterly"; Tippett has promoted that belief throughout his life, and we are richer for its expression.

RICHARD MORRISON

which the school was inculcating for the benefit of his audience. More fuss: these professional interviewees are increasingly being trained by moonlighting media jocks who might one day find themselves on the other side of the microphone. How does one conduct a penetrating interrogation of someone whom one has tutored in the art of self-presentation? On the other hand, how can one avoid doing a thorough job on someone whose technical deficiencies one already knows?

In a certain "media training school" in London, a paradigmatically unimpressive businessman was thus admonished by his tutor, formerly a *Newsnight* reporter: "You gave a very weak and dull interview because you were caught off your guard." Not because – for sake of argument – he had a congenitally weak and dull mind but because he had yet to absorb the doctrine of preparedness in

"truth". In context, the poacher/gamekeeper antithesis was itself a well-fleshed red herring which allowed the reporters who engage in such extramural activities to deny vehemently that they could ever be a conflict of interest, or that (for example) they had crossed the line from a neutrally-weighted professional service into the murk of shameless public relations.

One contributor claimed in his defence that what he and his colleagues were doing was an exercise in "levelling the playing field" – and there is the rub. Neutrality is an ideal. What they are really doing is promoting the apparently innocuous but quite possibly insidious notion that the values of broadcasters have somehow become the central concerns of everyone. This is eminently resistible.

MARTIN CROPPER

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## CBI CONFERENCE

# High-powered team to tackle industry's relations with City

SIR Brian Corby launched a new initiative to tackle relations between the City and industry in his presidential speech opening the national conference of the Confederation of British Industry in Glasgow.

Unveiling plans to set up a high-powered steering group, Sir Brian admitted that some had found the outcome of a CBI task force representing the City and industry that reported three years ago "somewhat anodyne". It had investigated widespread worries among industrialists about short-termism in the City.

The task force played down any serious split between the City and industry although it made recommendations to improve relationships between companies and shareholders like the powerful City institutions.

The new move, a bid to bring leaders of the City's

most powerful groupings together with industrial leaders, is expected to carry extra weight in the City because of Sir Brian's background. As chairman of the Prudential Corporation, he is a City man himself.

Sir Brian aims to set up a steering group to promote "long termism and corporate governance". He has invited leaders of the International Stock Exchange, the Association of British Insurers, the National Association of Pension Funds and the Institutional Fund Managers Association to join the group.

Underlining the need for a fresh approach on short-termism, Sir Brian said: "Where we can all be criticised is that when the task force report was received too many thought the problem had gone away and that no further action was needed.

"This is something which

we have to work on year in, year out, when times are good and when they are not."

He added: "We need to work extremely hard to ensure that the system of corporate governance – of relationships between companies and shareholders and between trustees of pension funds and their investment managers and advisers – works better."

Sir Brian welcomed the range of different bodies trying to improve the effectiveness of links between those owning industry and its managers. He added: "It will only be by our persistence in improving these links in many different ways that we will make progress in encouraging both owners and management to plan for continuity."

Sir Brian believes a high-level steering group will provide the best chance of making the multiple efforts being made to overcome problems of short-termism most effective. He wants the steering group to report regularly.

He set out three objectives. Management should be fully accountable to its board and the board to its shareholders. At the same time shareholders "should accept the responsibility which ownership implies".

Sir Brian emphasised how continuation of investment by industry demanded confidence that the rules were not suddenly going to change or that the exchange rate and interest rates were not going to be as volatile as in the past. It also demanded confidence about the national infrastructure.

In a reference to interest rates, Sir Brian said: "We need to exercise inflation from our society. But the measures we necessarily take to bring this about could have the effect – if we allow them to go too far – that we might not be in a position industrially to take advantage of our very success."

Business could only work on a timescale of three or five years or longer and that demanded continuity, said Sir Brian. He added: "Government appears to operate on a very much shorter timescale."

He pointed to the frequency of changes in ministerial portfolios saying lack of continuity was exacerbated if a change of government occurred. He said industry wastes the equivalent of 500,000 bottles of Scotch a day using cash and cheques.

Comment, page 25

## Scotch distillers say 1992 may hit sales

THE Scotch whisky industry fears completion of the single internal market will damage its sales on the Continent.

Mike Cowman, of the Scotch Whisky Association, said that while his industry supports the idea of a single market, it is worried it could be worse off after 1992.

He told delegates that the prospect is fading of member states reaching an agreement on harmonising alcohol excise duties that is acceptable to both the United Kingdom and continental spirits industries.

Mr Cowman said present proposals would not achieve the level of approximation of duties necessary to eliminate discrimination against Scotch whisky and other spirits. They would end up producing a "division of trade and distortion of competition".

He said: "Perhaps the most damaging practical effects of the present proposals would be a substantial depression in the spirits market in the Mediterranean member states as a result of massive increases in excise tax, 151 per cent in Spain and 243 per cent in Italy."

Mr Cowman said the community is wrong in arguing

that there would be no justification in continuing with duty-free sales after 1992. The Scotch whisky industry would lose sales worth more than £40 million a year, equivalent to losing the West German market.

He said the duty-free trade's compatibility with the single internal market came down to devising adequate, alternative controls to make sure that duty-free sales to EC travellers did not exceed levels acceptable to individual states.

Mr Cowman asked the confederation to support retention of the duty-free trade and to try to convince the government and the EC commission that it is compatible with the internal market.

The association believes all alcoholic drinks should be taxed at the same rate depending on the degree of alcohol.

John Byers, financial director of Highland Distilleries, last night poured a bottle of whisky down the drain to demonstrate how much money industry wastes using cash and cheques instead of automated payments. He said industry wastes the equivalent of 500,000 bottles of Scotch a day using cash and cheques.

Comment, page 25



Training talk: Michael Howard addressing the conference yesterday

## Rifkind sees new industrial balance

BRITAIN was moving towards a new industrial and economic balance after several decades in which commercial strength had concentrated in the Southeast of England, Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, told the conference.

Mr Rifkind said that over the past 18 months more private and public sector organisations had chosen to relocate outside the Southeast to the benefit of the regions and Scotland and Wales.

"I believe there is a trend taking place, not limited to this country, in locating or relocating elsewhere in the kingdom. As technology ad-

vances that task is made more and more easy," he said, adding that geographical location was no longer a problem for companies wishing to expand far afield.

He cited the Japanese who had penetrated the world's markets from thousands of miles away. Similarly, Edinburgh had become Britain's second most important financial centre in spite of being 400 miles from London.

Scotland, said Mr Rifkind, had benefited greatly from inward investment and relocation. Its economy, in spite of

Reporters: Ross Tieman, Kerry Gill and Derek Harris

## Howard unveils programme to encourage high quality training

A NATIONWIDE scheme under which companies will be invited to make a public commitment to high quality training was launched by Michael Howard, the employment secretary. His Investors in People programme was unveiled at the end of a keynote debate on Britain's "skills revolution".

The training standard was drawn up by business people participating in Mr Howard's National Training Task Force.

It was intended to spread the practices of Britain's biggest and best companies throughout industry and commerce.

Training should be driven not by altruism, but by bottom line considerations, Mr Howard said. "It brings benefits such as recruiting the best people, reduced staff turnover, increased motivation, and increased staff commitment."

Last year's Labour Force Survey showed a 70 per cent increase in the number of employees receiving training from their companies over the previous five years.

Despite strong evidence of a squeeze on capital spending, the most recent CBI survey showed companies still intend to increase spending on training. However, Mr Howard insisted there was no room for complacency.

• Action to tackle skills shortages was reported by Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the CBI education and training affairs committee. Sir Bryan, chairman and chief executive of the Post Office, brought in last year's action programme evolved by the CBI task force looking at the skills problem.

More than half the report's 55 recommendations had been accepted in full or in part

and there were developments in train on another 14, Sir Bryan said. "Many of the seeds necessary for the success of the skills revolution have been planted over the last 12 months. Indeed, I believe that the revolution has begun," he added.

Already a large number of civil service jobs had moved north of the border. There were now 200 electronic companies in central Scotland employing more than 40,000 people from all over the world.

Relocation was occurring faster as more companies realised the benefits of a skilled workforce in Scotland and the cost savings. Mr Rifkind said

that a company locating in Edinburgh or Glasgow, with 2,000 employees and needing 30,000 sq ft of space, could save £2 million a year compared with the Southeast.

The task force had pressed for training credits for young people, an idea taken up by government and now in the pilot stage with 10 Training and Enterprise Councils and one Local Enterprise Company, the Scottish equivalent of a TEC.

Another breakthrough had been the government decision to introduce core skills to qualifications for 16 year olds

to 19 year olds, Sir Bryan told the conference.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Yorkshire Bank debt provision doubles

BAD debts have doubled at Yorkshire Bank since it was bought by National Australia Bank for almost £1 billion in January. But the bank increased its annualised pre-tax profits by more than 9 per cent in the nine months to end-September. Yorkshire, which is changing its year-end to March to harmonise with NAB, made a profit of £92.1 million (£113 million) and is paying an £18.4 million dividend to NAB.

The bank suffered a £27.4 million bad debts provision, up an annualised 201 per cent from £18.2 million. The biggest provisions were £600,000 to a British & Commonwealth subsidiary and £400,000 to a subsidiary of Rush & Tompkins. The bank has nearly tripled the planned growth in branch network as a result of the takeover from five sites a year.

### Smith Estates profits falter

SUTCLIFFE, Speakman is selling its environmental engineering division in Chester to Groupe Fabricom for £6.5 million. The division's annual operating profit to March 31 was £1 million. Groupe Fabricom had 1989 sales of 21.5 billion Belgian francs and a pre-tax profit of £1 billion.

### Colorgen in profit

COLORGEN, the American supplier of computerised colour matching systems, has returned from the red with a net profit of \$18,000 in the year to end-June, against a previous loss of \$220,000. Group sales advanced by 29.5 per cent to \$5.06 million. Earnings per share stood at 0.1 cent, against a 1.5 cent loss per share last time. Once again, there is no dividend.

Colorgen said the level of enquiries for the current year has been good and it has received a substantial commitment from an American paint company for delivery in 1991.

### Hammerson agrees lease

HAMMERSOM Property Investment and Development Corp has signed a 25-year lease with National Power for most of a 155,000 sq ft office development in Queen Victoria Street in the City, for an undisclosed rent. National Power will take 92,500 sq ft of the building, which is due for completion in April.

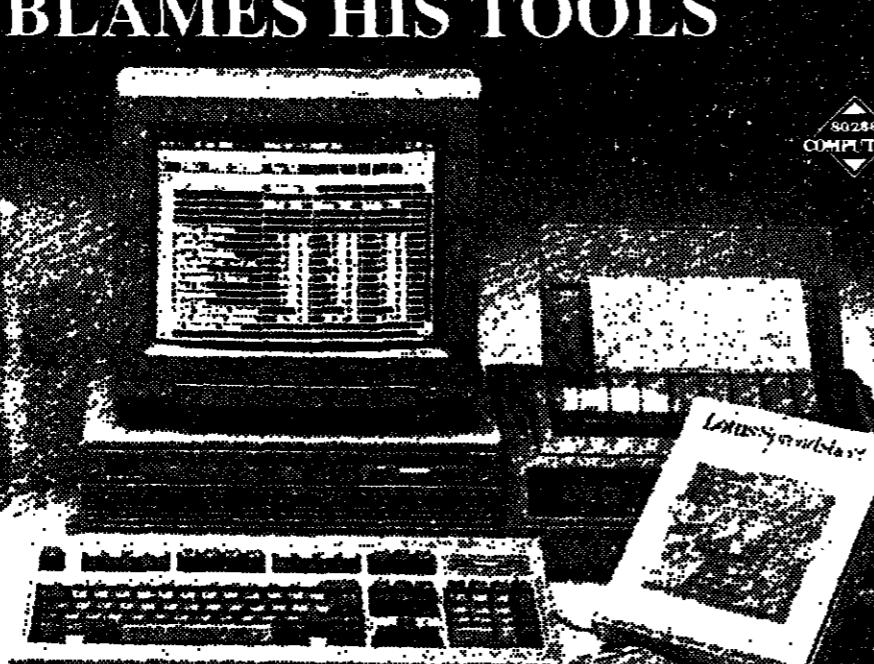
### Ashley buys Vertika stake

ASHLEY Group, the food retailer and window blind distributor, has acquired a majority stake in Vertika International, a leading UK brand for window blinds. It paid £1.57 million for 60.3 per cent of Vertika. The company had net assets of £1.58 million at end-December 1989, with turnover of £4.08 million.

UNICHEM, the national pharmaceutical wholesaler due to float on the International Stock Exchange this month, is moving into Europe. It has an option on 17 per cent of PAG Pharma-Holding AG, which owns 30 per cent of Anzag, Germany's largest pharmaceutical wholesaler.

Together with stakes held by UniChem's partners, OPG of The Netherlands and Ewra-Wiveda of Germany, the consortium will have control of PAG. The deal will cost DM12.4 million in UniChem shares.

## A BAD WORKMAN ALWAYS BLAMES HIS TOOLS



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## Wm Cook rises 55% aided by purchases

By PHILIP PANGALOS

WILLIAM Cook, the Sheffield steel castings group, achieved another jump in profits in the six months to September 29.

Acquisitions helped pre-tax profits advance 55 per cent to £5.8 million, while turnover surged from £42.6 million to £70.4 million, with about 20 per cent overseas. Trading profits rose from £4.4 million to £6.83 million, but interest jumped from £665,000 to £1.03 million. Gearing stood at 45 per cent.

After a higher tax charge of £1.74 million (£1.05 million), earnings per share slipped from 20.93p to 20.5p. The interim dividend is raised to 5p (4.5p). Andrew Cook, the chairman, said the order book is steady at about £30 million with signs of an upturn.

The company is restructuring inefficient capacity and plans to move from 11 plants to eight by the end of March, which should cost less than £2 million. Mr Cook added:

"There is no point keeping inefficient plant. We can invest in the good plants."

By MARTIN BARROW

BLYSTAD, formerly KCA Drilling, has sold two drilling rigs it owned for six weeks for £11.7 million, yielding a net £1.1 million profit.

The Songa Sun and Songa Sky were acquired from Outline. Blystad's interim losses before tax were £130,000 (£1.57 million profit) to end-June, on turnover of £10.9 million. The decline follows earlier disposal of rigs. There was a loss of 0.16p (1.58p earnings) a share. No interim dividend is recommended (nil paid).

There is an extraordinary charge of £3.51 million for a terminated agreement. There will be a 2.175p final dividend.

## Betterware to export its selling success

By OUR CITY STAFF

BETTERWARE Consumer Products is planning to export its door-to-door catalogue retailing method to the Continent. Philip Woodcock has been appointed European development director to oversee the launch of a sales operation in France.

The company, which moved from the US to the main list this year, is expanding after a strong start to the financial year in contrast to high street retailers. Taxable profits increased by 52 per cent to £1.7 million during the 28 weeks to September 8, on turnover 36 per cent higher at £13.98 million. After adjustment, earnings rose by 51 per cent to 5.5p share while the interim dividend is increased 25 per cent to 1.35p.

Andrew Cohen, chief executive, said that during the first two months of the second half of the year sales had increased 55 per cent.

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# I unvei mme to ge high trainin

Oh no, not another committee to look at relationships between shareholders and the companies they own. Sir Brian Corby, president of the CBI, thrilled the conference audience in Glasgow with the news that the great and the good are once again being invited to donate a minute or two from their busy schedules to think about how to improve the links between the two sides.

The president did not want a committee, so the new think-in is labelled a "Steering Group", but the casual observer may have difficulty in making the distinction. Helping the CBI at the helm will be the International Stock Exchange, the Association of British Insurers, the National Association of Pension Funds and the International Fund Managers Association, plus the DTI and the Bank of England.

A group such as that will find it easier to disagree than to reach accord, and it seems likely that anything that can be agreed upon will be so anodyne as to be meaningless. Sir Brian does, of course, mean well but he is in a cleft stick which makes his own

presidency of the CBI interesting, if not contradictory. Sir Brian, who spent 30 years inching his way to the top of the Prudential, is by experience more an investor than an industrialist. At the CBI he has to straddle an uncomfortable divide between industry and investor. His experience of largely passive portfolio investment must be invaluable to the CBI's industrial membership, but his loyalties are likely to be divided.

But he is well aware that the phrase "corporate governance" is increasingly cropping up at City lunch tables, and this is one of the facets of industrial life that Sir Brian's steering group will be examining. In the last week or two we have seen a couple of examples of institutions exercising their "corporate governance" by forcing from office senior executives who combined the roles of chairman and chief executive and then failed to deliver. A group of institutions is

requisitioning an extraordinary meeting of Savage Group to force out three directors and appoint their own nominees. Other senior executives who have combined the role are lined up in the institutions' sights, and fingers are itchy on the trigger.

Industry needs no steering group, in the wake of those executions, to see the point. Actions have spoken, words are unnecessary. Similarly, the institutions seem to know what they mean by "corporate governance". They want their own man on the board of a company to control, and if necessary sack, the chief executive. The cleanest and simplest way is for the chairman to be responsible to the shareholders, and the manage-

ment responsible to the board. Funnily enough, as Sir Brian made clear in his speech, he is quite aware of that. So why does he needs a steering committee to state the obvious?

## Unity funded

The modest rise in unified Germany's monthly trade surplus in September must not be misread as a sign that Europe's economic superstar can avoid the rapid deterioration in its balance of payments that took on a crumbling East Germany was bound to cause.

The forecasters are still looking for the pan-German current account surplus to be more than

halved by next year from last year's DM105 billion, as more of western German production is directed away from exports towards the troubled former command economy to the east.

Exports from east German industry are meanwhile expected to collapse by next year, as orders signed under the old regime peter out. But for all the trouble and cost of unification, the strength of former West Germany will allow it to continue to run handsome trade surpluses by any standards, despite the dramatic narrowing.

But what of the bill? Critics of the Bonn government claim that in the rush for unity the impact on the German taxpayer was underestimated. Tax increases would have to follow. Theo Waigel, finance minister, disagrees.

While readily acknowledging that the public sector deficit will probably widen next year from this year's DM105 billion, he yesterday told an audience of tax

advisers that talk of tax increases was uncalled for. There would, however, be no scope for reducing taxes as a proportion of the gross domestic product below its present 22.5 per cent, its lowest since the late 1950s.

These are not just promises ahead of the all-German elections in December, or commitments along the lines of President Bush's "read my lips" pledge. Bonn has a better record on delivering the beef. Tax revenues should start to improve next year, as turnaround in east Germany starts to make itself felt. Herr Waigel is also believed to be planning cuts in federal spending of up to DM40 billion next year, to remove some of the DM100 billion increase in the federal budget this year.

These cuts will not remove the need for increased federal borrowing, which this year jumped a huge DM47 billion to close to DM67 billion. No problem. Continued German surpluses on its external balances, plus the nation's renowned thriftness, mean Germany can finance its unity quite happily thank you.

## COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

## Bitter sweet shadow of Berisford clouds ABF

TEMPUS



Window of opportunity: Terry Roydon

of just 35 per cent, in spite of a £7 million tax bill in July. The £1.81 million interest charge is covered a manageable 3.8 times.

Prowting's strength lay, like some of its fellow builders in its long-established land bank. Since it did not have to grab land at the height of the market to satisfy rampant demand, it still had a chair when the music stopped. The company's borrowings of £26.9 million give it a gearing

an interesting asset play. These are in the books at £16,000 apiece, but even in today's depressed market are worth nearer £30,000. The company's stated net assets are £76 million. On a full valuation this is nearer £150 million compared to a market capitalisation, on a share price of £35p, of £96.4 million.

On profits of £8.25 million this year, the price/earnings ratio of 20 makes Prowting look fully valued, but they should certainly be held.

That is why the City greeted a 47.5 per cent fall in taxable profits at the interim stage to just £2.1 million and earnings of 1.9p a share, against 4.6p, with dismay and the shares fell to a new low of 57p. Only a maintained dividend of 1.2p prevented further damage.

A full-blooded recession is developing and any company which suggests that profits are unlikely to recover until late in the next financial year should expect to be hit hard.

In the current year, profits could fall from £9.5 million before tax to just £5 million. Earnings will fall more sharply from 10.6p a share to 5.3p as a consequence of a higher tax charge which will reflect a greater percentage of earnings from outside Britain.

The plus for shareholders is that the decline is not wholly attributable to a slump in demand for industrial chains and switching gear. The company has been busy restructuring operations in Britain, Germany and France and in the longer-term substantial cost benefits are anticipated.

The shares trade on a prospective price earnings ratio of 11 and on fundamental should remain moribund until well into next year.

At this level, the company may look attractive to better-placed predators banking on a recovery but investors should not hold their breath.

## Operating profit expected at Airbus

AIRBUS Industrie, the consortium of four European aircraft companies, expects to make its first operating profit this year.

Its newsletter said yesterday it would be the result of increased income, through more aircraft orders and deliveries, plus a reduction in costs.

The newsletter said: "The increase in orders is, in turn, a consequence of the consortium's recently completed aircraft family - and hence its presence in market segments from which it was previously excluded - as well as of the continued buoyant market for airliner sales." Airbus said the profit, of which no figure was mentioned, would be shared among its four partners.

France's Aerospatiale and West Germany's Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm each have a 38 per cent stake. British Aerospace has 20 per cent and CASA of Spain 4 per cent.

Airbus said it won firm orders for 254 aircraft during the first nine months of the year against 310 in the corresponding period of 1989.

But it added: "The market remains buoyant and Airbus now expects to conclude the year with total sales of more than 350 aircraft."

JOHN Elliott, the chairman of Elders IXL, the Australian brewer, has been replaced by Nobby Clark, the former managing director of National Australia Bank.

The directors' move was part of a shake-up of the board after the arrival of Asahi, the Japanese brewer, as a shareholder. It reflects the reduced influence of Harlin Holdings, the parent company.

The board will have three Harlin and two Asahi representatives, plus five others, including Mr Clark and another independent director who is expected to be named shortly.

Mr Elliott will be deputy chairman and act as a consultant to the chairman and the board.

The stock market responded by pushing Elders' price up 13 cents to Aus\$1.34 (53p).

Analysts said the rise was also a response to Asahi's formal deal with Harlin to buy a further 17 per cent of Elders, taking its holding to 19.9 per cent.

Asahi's representatives on the Elders board will be Takemasa Yoneyama, its executive vice-president, and Koichiro Iwaki, its senior managing director.

Confirmation of the Harlin-Asahi deal also meant Elders



Victim of the board shake-up: John Elliott

had to sell part of its stake in SA Brewing Holdings.

Asahi would have had problems with the foreign-ownership provisions of the Broadcasting Act as Elders had an 18.4 per cent stake in SA Brewing, which has a 17 per cent stake in Austereo, the radio broadcaster.

Elders said it had sold 14 million SA brewing shares at Aus\$2.32 each, reducing its stake to just under 15 per cent. It is believed to have made a profit of Aus\$3.6 million.

Mr Clark, who said he was "delighted" to join the Elders

board, said Elders, which is to be renamed Fosters Brewing Group, would show it had been over-sold by the market after its restructuring into a single-purpose brewer.

He said the board and management restructuring would underpin the job for the next two years.

He added: "Fosters has an exciting future open to it as one of the world's finest brewing companies."

Brian BUCHANAN  
Sydney

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Garban date for Dickie

THE commission war in the inter-dealer broker market continues. Garban, one of Britain's biggest IDB firms, run by Stephen Raven - chairman of the international markets committee of the International Stock Exchange and also a member of its membership and settlement services committee - has stepped up the pressure by hand-picking the best personnel from its rivals. Its latest catch is Richard "Dickie" Armour, aged 25, a founder employee of First Equity and acknowledged as its most senior broker. Armour, who has never lived down the fact that he starred in *Blind Date*, the television programme, last Christmas, previously worked for UBS Phillips & Drew and is due to join Garban in December. "It is quite a coup," says a delighted Raven. "It is part of our programme to take what we perceive as being the best people from the other IDBs. We have been identifying individuals and then persuading them to join us."

### Broking bubbles

LLOYD'S brokers plagued by talk of war, hurricanes and asbestos will soon be able to drown their sorrows within the safety of their own building. For Corney & Barrow, known in the Square Mile for its fine wines, has won a contract to open the first champagne bar at Number One, Lime Street. The bar, which opens in February on the site of the former Lloyd's coffee shop, will be fitted with internal telephones and a television paging system to keep brokers in touch with the outside world. "It will be the only part of the building open to the public," says Chris Brown, managing director of Corney & Barrow, who adds that up to 10,000 people pass through Lloyd's on a busy day. Despite the imminent rise in the price of champagne - by as much as 30 per cent on a bottle or glass - Brown expects to do a roaring trade. He has even bought in a number of jerooboams of Louis Roederer Brut Premier, which retail at £99.50 each, so the Lloyd's men can continue to celebrate successful business deals in customary style.

### Sun goddess

A GOOD tailor, as every City gent has always known, can make all the difference when it comes to clutching a deal. That has clearly not been lost on Hsueh Gouwei, which is setting out to become one of the most fashion-conscious houses in the Square Mile. Taking on the challenge for the firm, all but single-handedly, is Felicity Ellacombe, a UK equity saleswoman, who is, it seems, a self-appointed arbiter of style. Ellacombe, aged 34, who was recently promoted to the position of director, now sits at the left hand of Geoff Houston, head of UK equity sales. She has invited 15 of her best female clients to an evening at Harrods to teach

them the finer points of power dressing. Fashion aside, Ellacombe is taking her new job equally seriously. When asked by a colleague whether she would now be dealing on a daily basis, she was heard to reply: "Does the sun rise?"

*THE circulation manager of an American magazine, *Down East*, wrote to an Abner Mason notifying him that his subscription had expired. The notice was returned a few days later with the message: "So's Abner."*

### Brain power

NATIONAL Power, the larger of Britain's two generators, had an additional reason to celebrate last week when a team led by Granville Camsey, a director, won a general knowledge and intelligence quiz at the Guildhall organised on behalf of Age Concern, the charity. Among the 31 teams that defeated were PowerGen, their rival in the generation game, and Hanson, which itself tried to break into that market this summer.

*CLASSIFIED advertisement in a weekly newspaper in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. "Two extra good registered Horsford bulls for sale or trade. Must see, or be a cow, to appreciate." Or possibly a bear...*

### Lady Howe's role

LADY (Elspeth) Howe was keeping her peace yesterday as she watched Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, defend the government's position on Europe at the Confederation of British Industry conference

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## BUSINESS LETTERS

**Self-policing for listed companies**  
From the chairman of the Wider Share Ownership Council

Sir, The collapse of Polly Peck International, in circumstances of high indebtedness and controversial treatment of some items in the accounts, throws emphasis on the need for public listed companies to have a self-policing system of self-interested watchdogs. This could be more effective and cheaper than the external system of public watchdogs.

The Wider Share Ownership Council has developed a policy paper describing such a self-policing system, based on research by Dr Maurice Gillibrand. The three self-interested groups of watchdogs would be: 1. Institutional shareholders. 2. Personal, external shareholders with less than an agreed per cent of the company's capital. 3. Employee shareholders with less than an agreed per cent of the company's capital.

There could be one representative from each category, or two or three, depending on the size of the company. Their different backgrounds and self-interests could create a competitive environment of watchdogging, as in Germany.

They could meet separately from or sometimes with the board of directors, but they need not have the full powers of a German supervisory board. Their minimum essential powers would be:

a) to obtain any information they needed from the company and b) to call a general meeting of the company if they had cause for concern.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE COPEMAN,  
94 St Paul's Churchyard, EC4

## THF replies on booking policy

From the director of corporate communications, Trusthouse Forte

Sir, I read with interest the letter from the Rev Roger Ducker (November 1) and I am glad of the opportunity to set the record straight concerning Trusthouse Forte's policy on confirmed bookings.

First and foremost, the business guarantee is available to all customers paying full rate including individuals. Our ability to deliver this product to such customers arises because we are in a position to introduce what we consider to be one of the best rooms-management systems in Europe.

The merger was also good news for BSB's main shareholders, who have had to bear the brunt of rapidly-rising costs that have taken a toll on their stock market ratings. The combined losses of Sky and BSB have been estimated at about £10 million a week. But as analysts point out, the merger will result in a stronger business, earlier profitability, a wider base for funding and reduced financial commitments.

The business guarantee scheme is part of our booking system which will allow us to honour all guaranteed bookings, whether they are from business or leisure users.

We welcome leisure users such as the Rev Ducker. Indeed we have pioneered many of the products which now serve this market so well – such as leisure breaks, activity breaks, and health and fitness centres.

Granada, with 11 per cent of the new company, rose 180 to 175p, while Reed International (10.5 per cent), advanced 15p to 354p, in its dividend from Pearson, with

SHAREHOLDERS of the newly merged British Sky Broadcasting marked the end of the costly satellite television war with a sigh of relief.

Shares of The News Corporation soared Aus\$1.71 to Aus\$6.10 overnight in Sydney, while in London, they jumped 65p to 2424p. Shares in its subsidiary, News International, owner of *The Times*, jumped 24p to 125p.

We can achieve this as a result of the comprehensive national coverage which we enjoy following our acquisition of the Crest Hotels chain and because of enhancements to our computerised reservations system.

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Keep an eye on Whessoe, maker of high pressure pipework for power stations, unchanged at 112p.

The shares are looking neglected despite the company moving from a loss of £4.8 million in 1987 to a profit of £4.7 million last time and with £5.4 million in prospect for the year just ended.

an 11 per cent stake and the subject of a profits downgrading on Friday by James Capel and Hoare Govett, the stockbrokers, rose 12p to 621p, after 633p.

Another beneficiary of the merger is Alan Sugar's Amstrad, the consumer electronics group, which has been the main supplier of Sky's satellite dishes and decoders. The shares rose 5p to 60p.

Paul Norris, an analyst at BZW, said: "It is tremendous news for any manufacturer of

satellite dishes. The uncertainty that has overshadowed them because of the rivalry between Sky and BSB has ended."

Mr Norris estimates that sales of satellite dishes will account for 22 per cent, or £140 million, of Amstrad's gross sales in the current year to April. That figure could grow substantially now that the worries about competition have been eclipsed.

The rest of the equity market started the new account on a confident note with investors again catching the scent of lower interest rates. Hopes are high that the Autumn Statement expected this week from John Major, the chancellor, will be accompanied by a half per cent cut in the base rate. A firm start to trading on Wall Street enabled prices in London to close near their best, but there was little follow-through, with only 30 million shares traded.

The FT-SE 100 index ended 19.4 points higher at 2,050.1, while the FT index of 30 shares rose 10.4 to 1,581.1.

Government securities hung on to gains of almost £1 billion at the longer end despite renewed weakness in the pound.

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Am/Govt	106.1	-1.17	-1.17	Capita	105.5	-11.3	-10.20	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
High Mkt	116.7	-12.5	-12.5	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
Wmpe Bond	87.7	-0.7	-0.7	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
Am/Govt	145.9	-5.6	-5.6	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
Asian Pacific	95.4	-0.2	-0.2	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
Asi/Pac/Fam	137.5	-14.7	-14.7	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
Capri Bond	88.31	-39.36	-39.36	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
CommerBank	74.23	-19.39	-19.39	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
General	87.87	-33.26	-33.26	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
Japan	124.9	-19.47	-19.47	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
UK Govt	11.25	-1.45	-1.45	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
Do Acc	32.5	-0.2	-0.2	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
ESI Emp/Co	38.97	-11.67	-11.67	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
Income/Govt	247.5	-20.19	-20.19	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
Master/Adv	75.48	-8.89	-8.89	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
Am/Govt	20.07	-2.07	-2.07	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
Capri Bond	41.46	-44.10	-44.10	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
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Master/Adv	75.48	-8.89	-8.89	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
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Master/Adv	75.48	-8.89	-8.89	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
Am/Govt	20.07	-2.07	-2.07	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
Capri Bond	41.46	-44.10	-44.10	Capita	104.2	-11.2	-11.2	Euro	59.56	-22.76	-27.76	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16	Govt Tech	127.5	-13.7	-1.16
ASSESSOR UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD	10, Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1GJ Tel: 0224 833070 (Faxphone) 02000 533580	0.00		CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND LTD	1, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7AL Tel: 071-215 4801	0.00		CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND LTD	1, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7AL Tel: 071-215 4801	0.00		CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND LTD	1, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7AL Tel: 071-215 4801	0.00		CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND LTD	1, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7AL Tel: 071-215 4801	0.00	
Am/Govt	24.88	-25.98	-0.01	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04
Euro	71.00	-75.03	-0.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04
Charita	34.87	-31.15	-0.13	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04
Charita	10.45	-3.82	-0.05	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04
Charita	38.85	-41.72	-0.05	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04
Charita	10.45	-3.82	-0.05	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04
Charita	38.85	-41.72	-0.05	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04
Charita	10.45	-3.82	-0.05	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04
Charita	38.85	-41.72	-0.05	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04	Charita	19.54	-23.00	-1.04
Charita	10.45	-3.82																	

## **UNLISTED SECURITIES**

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

## THIRD MARKET

2075.0 2082.0 Previous week's increase  
2116.0 2116.0 2116.0 2125.0

1 Intermarket	5	7	12	60.0	0.3	Dec 90 -	85.81	87.08	85.81	87.05	28804	Long Gilt	Previous open	Interest	30218				
2 London Ls	5	7	12	60.0	0.3	Mar 91 -	87.99	88.98	87.98	97.10		Dec 90 -	84.02	84.14	84.01	84.31	13592		
3 Restaurant	22	25	-	-	44	Three Month Eurodollar	Previous open	Interest	Interest	Interest	Interest	Dec 90 -	84.20	84.23	84.20	84.23	17		
4 UPL	28	35	-	-	38	Dec 90 -	92.13	92.13	92.10	95.11	1255	Japanese Govt Bond	Previous open	Interest	Interest	Interest	Interest		
5 Video Magic Ep	13	18	2	-	-	Mar 91 -	92.35	92.37	92.34	92.37	956	Dec 90 -	91.83	92.06	91.80	91.80	126		
6						Three Month Euro DM	Previous open	Interest	Interest	Interest	Interest	German Govt Bond	Previous open	Interest	Interest	Interest	Interest		
						Dec 90 -	91.10	91.12	91.08	91.11	3524	Dec 90 -	82.01	82.05	81.80	81.84	13809		
						Mar 91 -	91.12	91.15	91.11	91.15	3221	Mar 91 -	81.80	81.85	81.72	81.74	2617		
<b>COMMODITIES</b>																			
LONDON OIL REPORTS - London Bpt								LONDON FOX								LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
another weekend, without any action in the Gulf, crude oil								COCOA AMT Futures								Official prices/volume previous day			
settled lower. Products followed the futures down in very thin								Dec 547-648 Sep 764-783								Rudolf Wolff			
DE OILS/assessed (\$/BBL FOB)								Mar 689-688 Dec 793-792								(£/tonne)			
1st	33.90	-1.20	2nd	32.85	-1.20	3rd	31.45	-1.20	4th	33.40	-1.15	5th	32.30	-1.10	6th	7148-7171	Mar 820-815		
2nd	33.90	-1.20	3rd	32.85	-1.20	4th	31.45	-1.20	5th	32.30	-1.15	6th	32.30	-1.10	7th	Jul 741-740	Vol 2058		
3rd	33.90	-1.20	4th	32.85	-1.20	5th	31.45	-1.20	6th	32.30	-1.15	7th	32.30	-1.10	8th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
4th	33.90	-1.20	5th	32.85	-1.20	6th	31.45	-1.20	7th	32.30	-1.15	8th	32.30	-1.10	9th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
5th	33.90	-1.20	6th	32.85	-1.20	7th	31.45	-1.20	8th	32.30	-1.15	9th	32.30	-1.10	10th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
6th	33.90	-1.20	7th	32.85	-1.20	8th	31.45	-1.20	9th	32.30	-1.15	10th	32.30	-1.10	11th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
7th	33.90	-1.20	8th	32.85	-1.20	9th	31.45	-1.20	10th	32.30	-1.15	11th	32.30	-1.10	12th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
8th	33.90	-1.20	9th	32.85	-1.20	10th	31.45	-1.20	11th	32.30	-1.15	12th	32.30	-1.10	13th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
9th	33.90	-1.20	10th	32.85	-1.20	11th	31.45	-1.20	12th	32.30	-1.15	13th	32.30	-1.10	14th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
10th	33.90	-1.20	11th	32.85	-1.20	12th	31.45	-1.20	13th	32.30	-1.15	14th	32.30	-1.10	15th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
11th	33.90	-1.20	12th	32.85	-1.20	13th	31.45	-1.20	14th	32.30	-1.15	15th	32.30	-1.10	16th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
12th	33.90	-1.20	13th	32.85	-1.20	14th	31.45	-1.20	15th	32.30	-1.15	16th	32.30	-1.10	17th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
13th	33.90	-1.20	14th	32.85	-1.20	15th	31.45	-1.20	16th	32.30	-1.15	17th	32.30	-1.10	18th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
14th	33.90	-1.20	15th	32.85	-1.20	16th	31.45	-1.20	17th	32.30	-1.15	18th	32.30	-1.10	19th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
15th	33.90	-1.20	16th	32.85	-1.20	17th	31.45	-1.20	18th	32.30	-1.15	19th	32.30	-1.10	20th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
16th	33.90	-1.20	17th	32.85	-1.20	18th	31.45	-1.20	19th	32.30	-1.15	20th	32.30	-1.10	21st	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
17th	33.90	-1.20	18th	32.85	-1.20	19th	31.45	-1.20	20th	32.30	-1.15	21st	32.30	-1.10	22nd	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
18th	33.90	-1.20	19th	32.85	-1.20	20th	31.45	-1.20	21st	32.30	-1.15	22nd	32.30	-1.10	23rd	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
19th	33.90	-1.20	20th	32.85	-1.20	21st	31.45	-1.20	22nd	32.30	-1.15	23rd	32.30	-1.10	24th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
20th	33.90	-1.20	21st	32.85	-1.20	22nd	31.45	-1.20	23rd	32.30	-1.15	24th	32.30	-1.10	25th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
21st	33.90	-1.20	22nd	32.85	-1.20	23rd	31.45	-1.20	24th	32.30	-1.15	25th	32.30	-1.10	26th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
22nd	33.90	-1.20	23rd	32.85	-1.20	24th	31.45	-1.20	25th	32.30	-1.15	26th	32.30	-1.10	27th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
23rd	33.90	-1.20	24th	32.85	-1.20	25th	31.45	-1.20	26th	32.30	-1.15	27th	32.30	-1.10	28th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
24th	33.90	-1.20	25th	32.85	-1.20	26th	31.45	-1.20	27th	32.30	-1.15	28th	32.30	-1.10	29th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
25th	33.90	-1.20	26th	32.85	-1.20	27th	31.45	-1.20	28th	32.30	-1.15	29th	32.30	-1.10	30th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
26th	33.90	-1.20	27th	32.85	-1.20	28th	31.45	-1.20	29th	32.30	-1.15	30th	32.30	-1.10	31st	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
27th	33.90	-1.20	28th	32.85	-1.20	29th	31.45	-1.20	30th	32.30	-1.15	31st	32.30	-1.10	1st	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
28th	33.90	-1.20	29th	32.85	-1.20	30th	31.45	-1.20	31st	32.30	-1.15	1st	32.30	-1.10	2nd	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
29th	33.90	-1.20	30th	32.85	-1.20	31st	31.45	-1.20	1st	32.30	-1.15	2nd	32.30	-1.10	3rd	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
30th	33.90	-1.20	31st	32.85	-1.20	1st	31.45	-1.20	2nd	32.30	-1.15	3rd	32.30	-1.10	4th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
31st	33.90	-1.20	1st	32.85	-1.20	2nd	31.45	-1.20	3rd	32.30	-1.15	4th	32.30	-1.10	5th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
1st	33.90	-1.20	2nd	32.85	-1.20	3rd	31.45	-1.20	4th	32.30	-1.15	5th	32.30	-1.10	6th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
2nd	33.90	-1.20	3rd	32.85	-1.20	4th	31.45	-1.20	5th	32.30	-1.15	6th	32.30	-1.10	7th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
3rd	33.90	-1.20	4th	32.85	-1.20	5th	31.45	-1.20	6th	32.30	-1.15	7th	32.30	-1.10	8th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
4th	33.90	-1.20	5th	32.85	-1.20	6th	31.45	-1.20	7th	32.30	-1.15	8th	32.30	-1.10	9th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
5th	33.90	-1.20	6th	32.85	-1.20	7th	31.45	-1.20	8th	32.30	-1.15	9th	32.30	-1.10	10th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
6th	33.90	-1.20	7th	32.85	-1.20	8th	31.45	-1.20	9th	32.30	-1.15	10th	32.30	-1.10	11th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
7th	33.90	-1.20	8th	32.85	-1.20	9th	31.45	-1.20	10th	32.30	-1.15	11th	32.30	-1.10	12th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
8th	33.90	-1.20	9th	32.85	-1.20	10th	31.45	-1.20	11th	32.30	-1.15	12th	32.30	-1.10	13th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
9th	33.90	-1.20	10th	32.85	-1.20	11th	31.45	-1.20	12th	32.30	-1.15	13th	32.30	-1.10	14th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
10th	33.90	-1.20	11th	32.85	-1.20	12th	31.45	-1.20	13th	32.30	-1.15	14th	32.30	-1.10	15th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
11th	33.90	-1.20	12th	32.85	-1.20	13th	31.45	-1.20	14th	32.30	-1.15	15th	32.30	-1.10	16th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
12th	33.90	-1.20	13th	32.85	-1.20	14th	31.45	-1.20	15th	32.30	-1.15	16th	32.30	-1.10	17th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
13th	33.90	-1.20	14th	32.85	-1.20	15th	31.45	-1.20	16th	32.30	-1.15	17th	32.30	-1.10	18th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
14th	33.90	-1.20	15th	32.85	-1.20	16th	31.45	-1.20	17th	32.30	-1.15	18th	32.30	-1.10	19th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
15th	33.90	-1.20	16th	32.85	-1.20	17th	31.45	-1.20	18th	32.30	-1.15	19th	32.30	-1.10	20th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
16th	33.90	-1.20	17th	32.85	-1.20	18th	31.45	-1.20	19th	32.30	-1.15	20th	32.30	-1.10	21st	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
17th	33.90	-1.20	18th	32.85	-1.20	19th	31.45	-1.20	20th	32.30	-1.15	21st	32.30	-1.10	22nd	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
18th	33.90	-1.20	19th	32.85	-1.20	20th	31.45	-1.20	21st	32.30	-1.15	22nd	32.30	-1.10	23rd	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
19th	33.90	-1.20	20th	32.85	-1.20	21st	31.45	-1.20	22nd	32.30	-1.15	23rd	32.30	-1.10	24th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
20th	33.90	-1.20	21st	32.85	-1.20	22nd	31.45	-1.20	23rd	32.30	-1.15	24th	32.30	-1.10	25th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
21st	33.90	-1.20	22nd	32.85	-1.20	23rd	31.45	-1.20	24th	32.30	-1.15	25th	32.30	-1.10	26th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
22nd	33.90	-1.20	23rd	32.85	-1.20	24th	31.45	-1.20	25th	32.30	-1.15	26th	32.30	-1.10	27th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
23rd	33.90	-1.20	24th	32.85	-1.20	25th	31.45	-1.20	26th	32.30	-1.15	27th	32.30	-1.10	28th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
24th	33.90	-1.20	25th	32.85	-1.20	26th	31.45	-1.20	27th	32.30	-1.15	28th	32.30	-1.10	29th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
25th	33.90	-1.20	26th	32.85	-1.20	27th	31.45	-1.20	28th	32.30	-1.15	29th	32.30	-1.10	30th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
26th	33.90	-1.20	27th	32.85	-1.20	28th	31.45	-1.20	29th	32.30	-1.15	30th	32.30	-1.10	31st	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
27th	33.90	-1.20	28th	32.85	-1.20	29th	31.45	-1.20	30th	32.30	-1.15	31st	32.30	-1.10	1st	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
28th	33.90	-1.20	29th	32.85	-1.20	30th	31.45	-1.20	31st	32.30	-1.15	1st	32.30	-1.10	2nd	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
29th	33.90	-1.20	30th	32.85	-1.20	31st	31.45	-1.20	1st	32.30	-1.15	2nd	32.30	-1.10	3rd	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
30th	33.90	-1.20	31st	32.85	-1.20	1st	31.45	-1.20	2nd	32.30	-1.15	3rd	32.30	-1.10	4th	May 741-740	Vol 2058		
31st	33.90	-1.20	1st	32.85	-1.20	2nd	31.45	-1.20	3rd	32.30	-1.15	4th	32.30	-1.10	5th	May 741-740	Vol		

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**LONDON OIL REPORTS** - London 8pm  
Another weekend, without any action in the Gulf, crude oil  
prices stayed where they were. Crude oil futures closed in New York at

Prices drifted lower. Products followed the futures down in very thin trading.

CRUDE OILS/despatched (\$/BBL FOB)		IPE FUTURES	
Front Phys	39.90	-1.20	
6-day FOB	39.95	-1.20	GAS OIL ANCT Futures

Nov 559-558	Ju 590-587	Zinc Spec Ht <sup>o</sup>	1290.0-1292.0	1291.0-1293.0
Jan 574-573	Sep 608-603	Tin <sup>o</sup>	6210-6220	6200-6205
Mar 561-560	Nov 629-620	Aluminiatum Ht <sup>o</sup>	1270.0-1272.0	1282.0-1284.0
Apr 560-559	Oct 640-631			



# Consumers assured of the benefits of change

Insurers may have to merge to survive the stiff competition that will come with a single European market. Wolfgang Münchau writes

**O**fall industries, insurance is one of the least "European" in nature. Different regulations exist for every country, and this is unlikely to change even when the single market comes into effect. Yet, during the next five years, the European insurance industry will go through drastic change as it becomes more competitive.

The change will be partly a reflection of directives, issued by the European Commission, which try to level the European marketplace, but to a greater extent, a result of trends that are already apparent in Europe. For the industry, the new trend will mean lower margins, which can at best be compensated for by increased business volume. For the consumer, it will mean a better choice and lower premiums.

One of the commission's directives, already implemented, concerns large risks, which comprise the only genuinely European insurance business. The other directive allows Europeans to buy non-life personal insurance products anywhere in the European Community, although companies are still prevented from marketing products abroad unless

**'It is far from clear whether Britain's insurance companies will benefit from the changes that lie ahead'**

they have permission from the relevant national authority. On their own, however, the two directives, and the few that are to follow, are hardly the stuff that can shake up an entire industry.

Britain has traditionally been Europe's most liberal insurance market, but it is far from clear whether British insurance companies and Lloyd's, the international insurance market based in London, will benefit from the changes ahead.

British companies have a mainly domestic outlook, and

largest French insurance company, Union des Assurances de Paris (UAP), which is state-owned, but will probably be one of the first privatisations targets in a post-socialist French government. UAP's market share in Europe is only half that of Allianz, but it has ambitions to be as large as its German rival. Allianz, of course, will also grow, and some have speculated, this may occur through the acquisition of a British life insurance company.

Assicurazioni Generali, of Italy, is another leading participant

in the European insurance market. Here Mr Huttner believes that the premiums are "30 per cent below what they should be". It is likely that the Bundesaufsichtsamt will soon end this by forcing insurance companies to split accounts for personal and commercial business to avoid cross-subsidies. At present, the small man subsidises the risk of the big one.

The other development that will sharpen competition in Germany is the arrival of the banks. Dresdner Bank and Allianz have formed a strategic alliance in some of the Länder, by which Dresdner Bank distributes insurance policies through its branch network. This move is one of the most significant changes to the distribution part of the business, which has long been dominated by the foot-in-the-door insurance salesman. Banks may soon offer their own insurance policies.

Most insurance companies have used the years in which they were protected against real competition to their advantage. Reserves are generally large. The capital base behind German insurance companies will also be their greatest asset in the consolidation process widely expected to take place in the European insurance industry.

Michael Huttner, a European insurance analyst at BNP Securities, a London broker, says: "The big issue is that Allianz is behaving as if it were in the Wild West. They have introduced the concept of competition. The stable margins and the established distribution networks will all go out of the window. Policyholders will benefit, but not insurance companies."

eager to improve its market position, perhaps through a link-up with a French company. Zurich Insurance, Europe's second largest group, has also left no doubt about its intention to buy up smaller to medium-sized companies.

Ironically, the decades during which Europe's insurers enjoyed protection have left the continental companies at an advantage. There was never a need to please shareholders, eager for ever higher dividends. Instead, the larger and some of the medium-sized companies are entering the new, and

more competitive, decade with their baby fat intact.

The insurance industry of the Nineties will be made up mainly of a group of five or more large companies; one each in Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy and perhaps Britain. There will be a second tier, and then a dwindling number of medium-sized niche companies. Many of the smaller companies will disappear.

Yet, while the structure of the industry will become more European in the next five years, the markets will remain national in

outlook. Allianz might, by then, own a British life insurance company, and the Prudential may be well established on the continent; but they are likely still to offer a French product in Britain and a French product in France.

Life insurance, which makes up about half the industry, is often linked to national social security systems, which, despite the EC's social harmonisation programmes, are unlikely to be standardised for many years.

• The author is the European Business Correspondent of The Times.

## German predator shakes up industry



Herr Schieren long term

Allianz moved there for the long term.

Allianz's market share in Germany is about 15 per cent. Analysts in London fear that the company's new, more aggressive policy, and the arrival of sometimes ruinous price competition is about to change culture.

Michael Huttner, a European insurance analyst at BNP Securities, a London broker, says: "The big issue is that Allianz is behaving as if it were in the Wild West. They have introduced the concept of competition. The stable margins and the established distribution networks will all go out of the window. Policyholders will benefit, but not insurance companies."

**FRENCH** insurers are unrivalled in Europe for their aggression and ambition. The large groups have committed themselves to dominating their home market and competing effectively in Europe, often from a very modest base (Neil Bennett writes).

This year, however, the industry has paused for breath, following three years of complex acquisitions that have reshaped France's domestic market and given the leading insurance groups a substantial market share overseas.

The process started in 1987, with Compagnie du Midi's acquisition of Equity & Law. A year later, Compagnie du Midi became a takeover victim itself, as Axa Group won control. Meanwhile, Victoire furthered its ambitions by buying the German Colonial Group, before losing its in-

## British plan continental niche

### Getting a foot in the door across the Channel is difficult, but lucrative

**T**he advent of the single European market has presented Britain's insurers with a problem. All agree they should expand on to the Continent, and believe they can offer attractive products. The government and the trade department have exhorted life insurers to cross the Channel (Neil Bennett writes).

The prospects do appear.

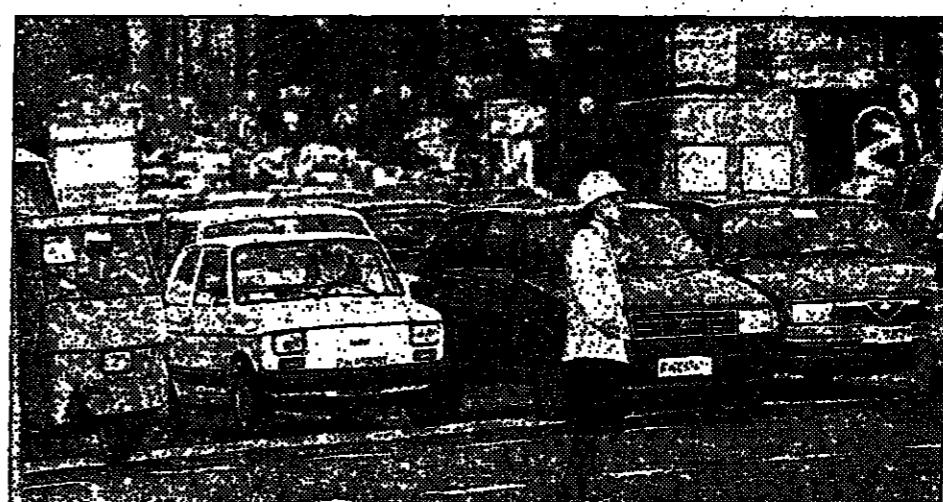
Even in developed life assurance markets, products are surprisingly unsophisticated.

Unit-linked policies, for example, are almost unheard of in Germany. In much of southern Europe, life assurance investment is still in its infancy.

While there are opportunities, however, in both life and non-life markets, insurers are finding them difficult to exploit. After a series of heavy claims and poor results, most British composites have neither the will, nor the resources, to look for expensive continental acquisitions. The alternative is to set up green-field operations and expand them organically, but insurers are then faced with the problems of distribution.

Without an effective sales force, it is futile for newcomers, no matter how superior their products, to compete against the established national insurers.

Other continental ventures



The risks of Europe: GRE lost £46 million after investing in Italian motor insurance

have been disastrous. Last year, GRE bought a half-share of Sidas and Cipsa, two Italian motor insurers, for £27 million. They lost £19.7 million, and this increased to £46 million in the first half of 1990, after GRE discovered a £30 million shortfall in the companies' reserves.

Some insurers are already in retreat. Last month, Eagle Star announced it was selling its French non-life insurance subsidiary, Eagle Star France, to Credito Italiano, the Italian bank, to offer life and non-life policies through the latter's 503 branches. It is also selling policies through Crédit Maritime in France.

Given the pitfalls of acquisitions, composites are trying to find a lower-cost route

to continental customers. In June, Sun Alliance and several underwriting syndicates in Lloyd's insurance market formed a joint venture called Eurosore. This is designed to take advantage of the EC's second non-life insurance directive, which came into force at the beginning of July.

The directive allows all European businesses with a balance sheet of more than 12.4 million ecus (£8.65 million) and at least 500 employees to buy insurance anywhere in the community, as part of the EC's policy of freedom of services. Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain are exempted for several years.

Eurosore will be marketed through Lloyd's largest brokers, including Sedgwick and Willis Faber & Dumas. Despite this, it expects to take premiums of only £50 million in the next three years, which is insignificant in terms of the size of the market.

Eurosore is an implicit admission by Lloyd's that its continental European business is too small. Only 10 per cent of the £1.25 billion of market premiums last year came from the Continent, a quarter the size of business from America. In addition, more than half of this was introduced as reinsurance for large continental groups. But Lloyd's believes it can play a niche role in Europe.

three months," he says. "But it is to double the size of our business in the next five years." This would make Axa the fifteenth largest insurance group in the world.

"To do good business you have to be a leader and you have to be international. If you are too small you cannot recruit good people, advertise or things like that. I was small when I started, and so I know what it is like."

"My concern is the big Japanese companies. It will be difficult to survive against them unless we are large. Not today, not immediately. I can retire without any problem, but if I want to leave a secure business, I have to grow."

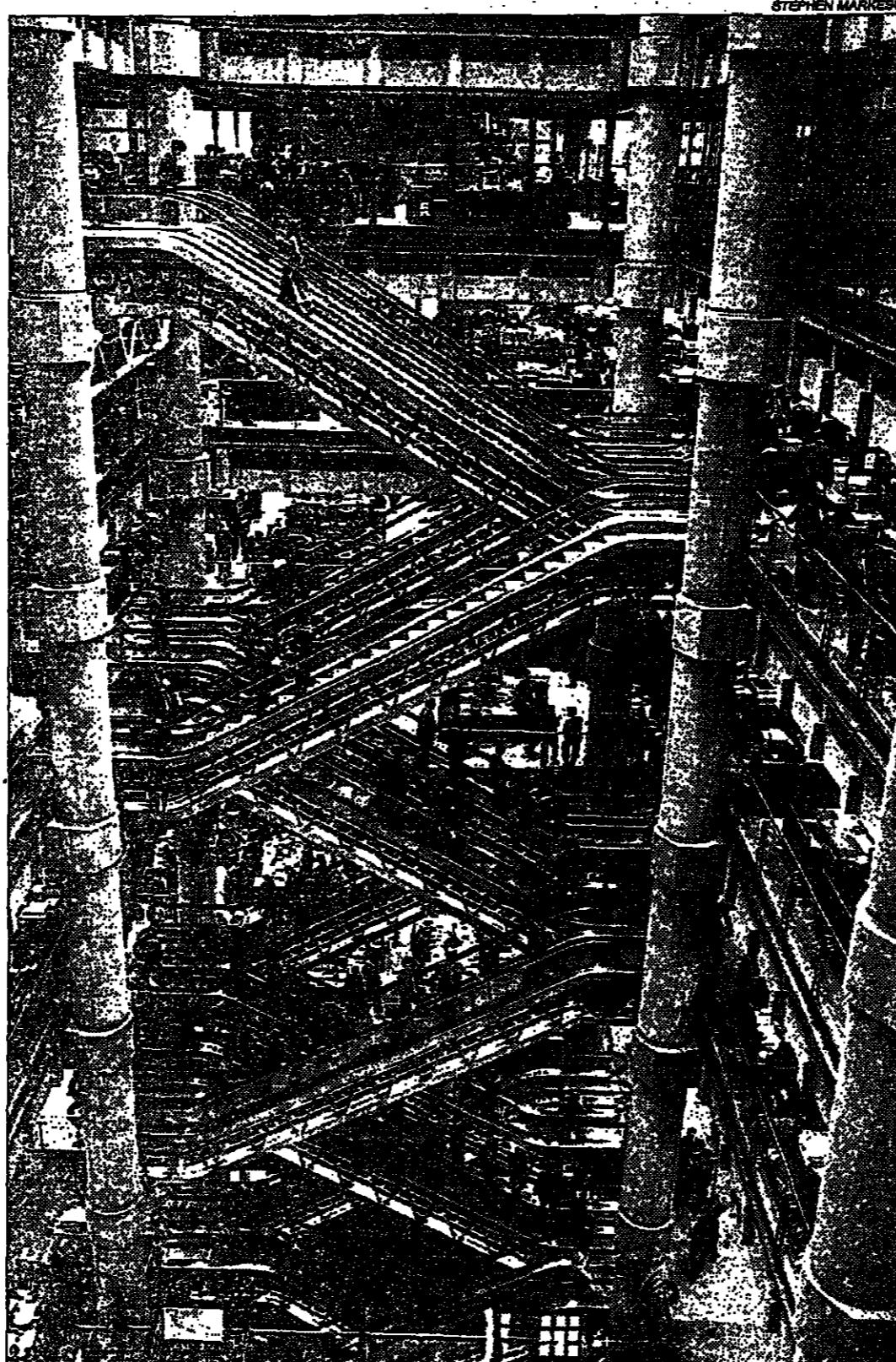
This year Axa failed in its £2.5 billion bid for Farmers, the Californian insurer, which was part of Sir James Goldsmith's attempt to break up BATA Industries, but M Bébérat is clearly undaunted.

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## Europe shops for the right policy

EC residents will be able to get quotations in any member state as restrictions are lifted

**A**fter years in the European Community's slow lane, policy-making on insurance is finally picking up speed (Peter Guilford writes). This is thanks to more flexible methods of overcoming the legal differences between member states, and to a renewed feeling among the more protectionist countries that the benefits of a free insurance trade will eventually outweigh the snags.

Action on insurance, however, still lags behind moves to deregulate community trade in other financial services, notably banking, for which agreement has already been reached on a single barrier-free market across the whole community.

The momentum behind insurance deregulation is due, in no small measure, to the EC's most energetic evangelist for the free market, Sir Leon Brittan, who holds the financial services portfolio in the commission.

At the same time, he has done much to soothe Americans' suspicion that Europe may be building a fortress of protectionism around its insurance industry.

However, it was his predecessor, Lord Cockfield,

who set the ball rolling, largely by scrapping the cumbersome policy of standardising the 12 national sets of laws down to the smallest detail, and replacing it with "mutual recognition" of one another's systems.

Market forces would press member states to fall into line, Lord Cockfield predicted.

The acceleration of EC legislation in insurance and other areas has

since proved him right.

Insurance is the area above all

others where Britain, backed by its powerful insurance industry, sets the pace in Brussels. Sir Leon and

Geoffrey Fitchew, his director-general of financial services, are

British. They invariably chivvy

their more reluctant EC partners

to the liberal line and agree to

throw their protected insurance

markets as wide open as possible

to cross-border competition, con-

fident that much of that competi-

tion will sweep over from

across the Channel.

The UK finds its traditional

liberal ally in the Dutch, but has

frequently faced strong opposition

from Germany, where financial

services are still cushioned from

foreign competition, despite the



Sir Leon: a liberal line

resilience and openness of the German economy. The community's southern flank fears its markets may be swamped by strong companies from the north, and has won substantial periods of grace in several areas.

The thrust of the commission's policy is to ensure that minimum levels of protection exist for the policyholder — and that every country trusts the rules of all the others — and then to throw the community market open to free competition.

Theoretically, the policyholder will be free to shop around all 12 countries for the policy whose terms and prices suit him best. Companies will have to compete more fiercely than ever before for his custom.

Under the single European insurance market set for 1993, a reputable insurer would no longer need

authorisation (frequently

protectionism) in every

country where he chose to sell policies.

A "single passport" issued in

his home country would suffice.

Brussels has, however, drawn an important distinction between small-time and big-time (or "mass-risk" and

"large-risk") policyholders.

For the time being, governments may still "protect" their citizens from buying policies abroad, while large companies can insure themselves more freely all over the community. This has removed a serious stumbling block to negotiations, but Sir Leon hopes eventually to banish the distinction.

Many of the building blocks for a single market in health, fire, motor and other "non-life" insurance policies are now in place, whereas more controversial plans such as deregulating life insurance are still on the commission's designating boards.

Independent estimates indicate that the value of life insurance in different countries varies widely, with the Portuguese effectively paying ten times more to insure themselves than the British.

Life insurance prods at the heart of national sovereignty, touching on guarded government areas such as taxation, social security and workers' rights. Brussels has shifted many national obstacles to a free insurance market, but it knows that life insurance will be its biggest fight yet.

### Years of frenzied growth have put French insurers in a strong competitive position

## Ambitious French equip for success

dependence to the far-reaching Groupe Suez last year.

The French have also extended their influence overseas through substantial minority stakes. Union des Assurances de Paris (UAP) holds 25 per cent of Sun Life in Britain, and 32 per cent of Royale Belge. Suez has 23 per cent of Baltic Holding, Denmark's largest insurer.

The process started in 1987, with Compagnie du Midi's acquisition of Equity & Law. A year later, Compagnie du Midi became a takeover victim itself, as Axa Group won control. Meanwhile, Victoire furthered its ambitions by buying the German Colonial Group, before losing its in-

Peyrelade, UAP's chairman, naturally wants to benefit from such a significant asset, and has said he wants to co-operate with the group once it has digested Colonial fully.

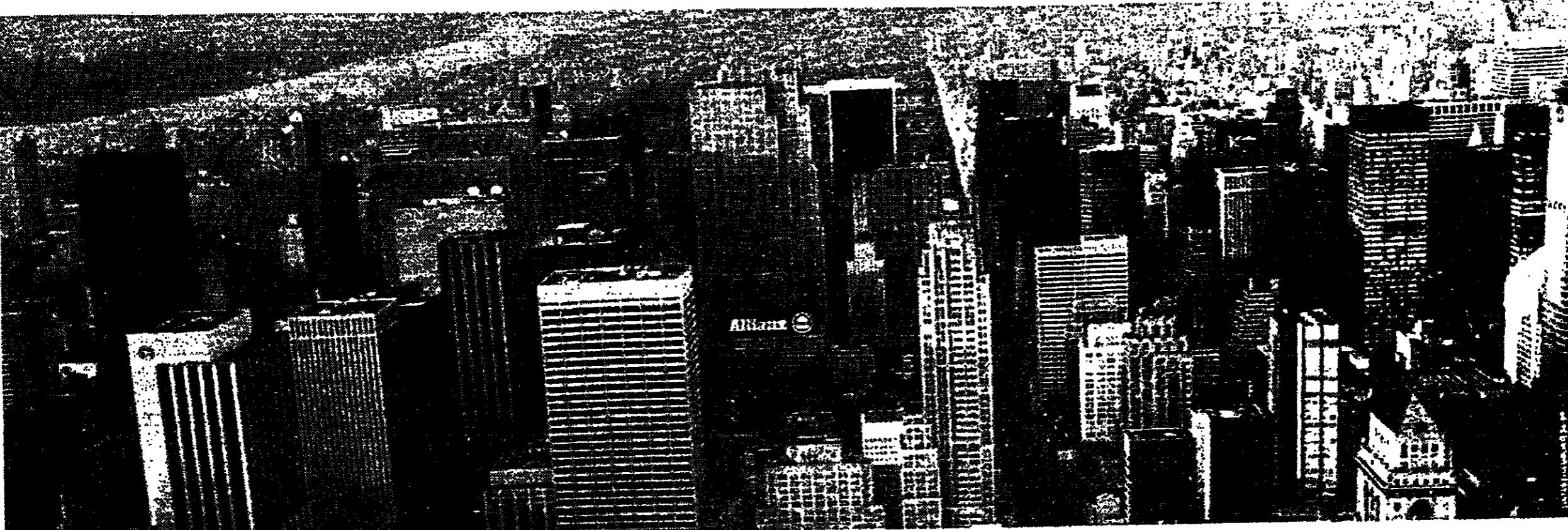
Victoire and Suez seem unhappy, however, to be so close to their largest competitor, and Suez insists it will retain a minimum 50 per cent stake. The situation could be resolved by Gérard Worms, the Suez chairman appointed last month.

The corporate manoeuvres have slowed down this year while the insurance groups recover from heavy underwriting losses from the storms that swept northern France in

January. The decline in world equity markets has hit the groups' unrealised capital gains, and made it more difficult to raise new funding.

The insurers are also seeing a slowdown in the frenzied growth of the French life assurance market, which grew by 35 per cent a year in the mid-Eighties. This year it is estimated to expand by only 15 per cent to about 215 billion francs (£21.5 billion), because of competition from the government's new "Plan d'Epargne Populaire", a tax-advantaged savings scheme. The rate of growth is still more than 10 per cent above the French inflation figure, and gives muscle to the insur-

ers' managed funds. So, Mr Peyrelade and his competitors are still looking to the main chance. The UAP chairman said last month that he is negotiating a possible link-up with two American groups and one European or South African group. This could accomplish his goal of matching the strength of Allianz, the German insurer. UAP, with 15 per cent of the European market, is only half Allianz's size.



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# Gnomes of Zurich go doorstepping

**S**witzerland is an insurance salesman's dream. The Swiss spend more on insurance as a percentage of gross national product than any other people in the world. Last year, total premium incomes in the republic amounted to about 50 billion Swiss francs (£20 billion). Switzerland, although one of Europe's smallest countries, accounts for an extraordinary 12 per cent of Europe's insurance market.

The Swiss insurance market, however, is far from saturated. Percentage growth for the industry has remained in double figures.

The country has two of Europe's top ten insurance companies, Zurich Insurance and Winterthur, and 120 smaller insurance companies. Despite their strong home base, Swiss insurance companies have traditionally been very active abroad. Insurance premium income from foreign operations, including those of foreign subsidiaries, is believed to be worth more than 40 billion Swiss francs (£16 billion).

By contrast, only a few foreign companies are active in the Swiss market, and they

The Swiss hope to persuade other Europeans to buy as much insurance as they do, Wolfgang Münchau writes

account for only 2 per cent of premiums.

Although Switzerland is still wary of joining the European Community, it has been eager to come to an insurance agreement with the EC. Last year, the Swiss signed an insurance treaty with the community, which will come into force in 1993, the first year of the single internal market. The treaty is not a genuine free-trade deal, but allows Swiss companies to set up offices throughout the community, while EC companies will have the same right in Switzerland.

The opening of the Swiss market to foreign companies is likely, however, to lead to profound changes in the Swiss industry. Rolf Hüppi, the chief general manager of Zurich Insurance, the country's largest and Europe's second largest insurance company, believes that small insurance companies might not survive in the new era.

to sell international insurance products to international clients. The opening of the large risk market to genuine Europe-wide competition makes this type of operation possible.

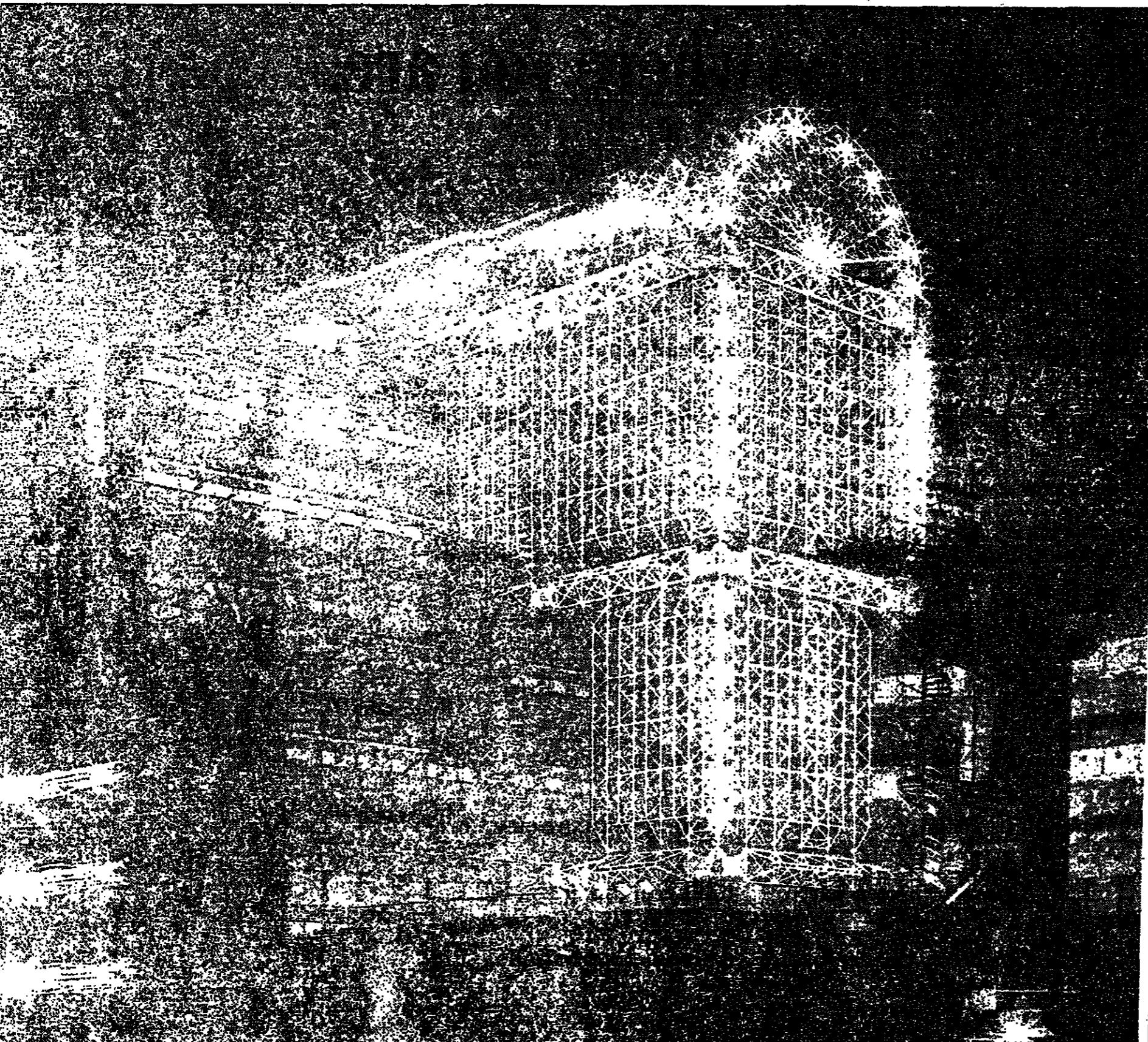
Herr Hüppi pursues a similar strategy. One of the great challenges of deregulation is the opportunity to become active on a Europe-wide basis, he says. "I do not believe that Switzerland can survive as an insurance island. But then, Switzerland has a few internationally-oriented insurance companies able to operate in the European market, that have learnt to adjust."

The problems will be similar to those faced by small companies elsewhere. Greater competition, initially in non-life business in particular, will lead to lower margins. The large companies will want to compensate for the shortfall with higher volumes, which will often be achieved only by means of takeovers.

The Swiss approach to insurance has traditionally been unaggressive. With falling margins throughout the industry, however, and more competition, that may change.



Rolf Hüppi: network of systems throughout Europe



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## Italy looks on life's bright side in lean times

Britons spend three times as much on insurance as the optimistic Italians

**T**he head of Italy's largest insurance company declared recently: "We are in the years of the lean kine." Enrico Randone, chairman of Assicurazioni Generali, was referring, not to the Chinese calendar, but to the biblical dream in which seven lean cows were a harbinger of famine.

Italy's insurance companies have escaped the storms that hit northern Europe, but they have had operational losses in most sectors, except life. The motor sector has been particularly badly hit.

Italians spend 66 per cent less than Britons, per head of the population, on insurance.

Assicurazioni Generali, which has its headquarters in Trieste — the birthplace of Italian insurance — is the fifth largest insurance company in Europe, coming after Allianz of Germany, Zurich Insurance, Union des Assurances de Paris and the Prudential. Founded 159 years ago at the time of the Austro-Hungarian empire, it

is strong on the Continent, particularly in Austria, while, in Britain, it owns Northern Star, of Gloucester, and Dog Breeders Insurance, of Bournemouth.

Dario Escher, the head of Generali's research department, regards the non-life outlook as "fairly worrying". For three years now, he says, a cyclical downturn has been underway. Each year brings hopes that the trough has been reached, but so far, no end is in sight.

"We could get together and agree to raise our premiums, but then we would be accused of making a cartel, forbidden by the European Community," he says. "Everyone complains, but no one dares to raise rates, especially as competition is very strong from foreign companies that want to increase their market share."

The smaller, life side is a different story. Heady annual expansion of 30 per cent in the Eighties has subsided to 15-16 per cent. Many companies, such as Allianz, Generali's life subsidiary — not to be confused with Allianz — have revamped their range of products to be more in line with international trends. In Signor Escher's view, a first level of saturation has been reached.

JOHN EARLE

## Dutch in the first cross-border link

THE Netherlands is the biggest and the most liberal insurance market of the three Benelux countries, and the one best prepared for the single market.

Dutch insurers' expansion plans within the European Community have been largely frustrated, however, by protectionism in other European countries.

Nevertheless, it is two Benelux insurance companies which have created the "first full cross-border merger" within the EC. In March, Amev, The Netherlands' third largest insurer and Groupe AG, the Belgian market leader, announced their intention to merge, although they are still waiting for approval from the EC commission.

The merger was couched in terms of expanding into the 1993 single market, but it must be seen more as a defence mechanism. Predators looking for a Benelux acquisition will now have to pay more for Amev/AG.

MARK FULLER

## Spain builds bull market

SPAIN'S insurance business has been the fastest developing in Europe since 1984, the year the industry began to be liberalised.

Between 1984 and the end of 1988, Spanish insurance grew by an average 30 per cent a year, while life insurance grew by an average 70 per cent. Despite this, premiums totalled only £10 billion in 1989, equivalent to about 4 per cent of the value of all the EC's premiums.

That year was a bad one, as premiums declined 22 per cent compared with 1988, but for a special reason.

After a two-year legal battle, the government succeeded, in 1989, in obtaining the names of holders of a special insurance policy — a single-premium policy written with a minimum life insurance element. The government had discovered that such policies were not only evading monetary controls, but also being used by holders to conceal up to £10 billion from tax inspectors.

JANE MONAHAN

tors. Guillermo Kessler, insurance supervisor in the finance ministry, says the subsequent fall in demand for single-premium policies was the sole reason for the decline in premiums in 1989.

Nevertheless, Senor Kessler believes Spain's insurance will go on growing well above the EC average because Spaniards spend less than half the community's average on insurance. This potential market is behind the scramble by foreign companies to stake claims in Spain.

Spain's biggest insurance companies, nearly all of which are controlled by Spanish banks, have made only timid attempts to expand abroad. La Unión y el Fénix, which is one of the very few Spanish insurance companies with a tradition of trading abroad, being active in France, has recently made an investment in Portugal. So has Falicio, controlled by Banco Central.

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# Four-point plan for justice

The need to improve access to justice is one of the great issues of our time. A system of justice is not worthy of the name if any section of the community is excluded from it for any reason. It is unacceptable to have a large group of people who cannot afford to go to law.

In December 1989 the Lord Chancellor's Legal Aid Advisory Committee said: "The issue of eligibility for legal aid has long been a concern of the committee... although [the] evidence on the relative fall of the eligibility level is indirect. It is consistent and persistent."

A study by Michael Murphy, of the London School of Economics, suggests that 14.8 million people and 5.5 million households have become ineligible for civil legal aid since 1979.

In March a joint letter from the Bar Council and the Law Society to the Lord Chancellor reflected the legal profession's increasing concern about this decline, and the Lord Chancellor's review of the financial conditions for legal aid is considering the issue of eligibility.

The government says gross expenditure on legal aid in the last financial year was £715 million. This figure calls for careful examination. The net cost is £594 million. Criminal legal aid accounts for £282 million, non-matrimonial legal aid for £76

million and matrimonial civil legal aid for £71 million. These net figures include 15 per cent VAT and should be reduced accordingly."

It is hardly surprising that the cost of criminal legal aid has risen. Between 1984 and 1989 the number of defendants who received legal aid for crown court trials rose from about 105,000 to 132,000.

Expenditure on criminal legal aid is inevitably demand-led. The rise in unit costs reflects the increasing complexity of criminal cases. The creation of the Serious Fraud Office and the use by the prosecution of advanced technology must reflect this complexity, but no statistics are available.

Criminal and civil legal aid should be considered separately. Those who require civil legal aid should not suffer because the cost of criminal legal aid has risen. It is necessary to focus attention on eligibility for civil legal aid, and in particular the 14.8 million people who have become ineligible for it since 1979.

The legal profession has its part to play. We need to continue to fight those old enemies, cost and delay. The assessment of costs by

an independent court official in civil legal aid cases gives the taxpayer appropriate protection.

## LEGAL BRIEF

Arrangements for payment in civil legal aid cases are such that after a case has been running for 18 months 46 per cent of the fees will be paid on account.

Such arrangements impose an appalling financial strain on young barristers and would not be accepted by any commercial organisation.

Many solicitors and barristers give a great deal of time to initiatives that are aimed at filling gaps in the legal aid system. For example, the Bar's Free Representation Unit has handled more than 1,000 cases in tribunals without charge this year. The clients in these cases would otherwise have been unrepresented, as legal aid is still not available for tribunals or arbitrations.

We must ensure that ordinary people have the same access to justice, including the same quality of representation, as that available to the big battalions. Implementing the four proposals I have made would help to achieve this goal.

• The author is chairman of the Bar.

1. The government should restore

legal aid eligibility at least to the levels of 1979. The Lord Chancellor's Legal Aid Review is looking at ways of meeting the financial needs of those now ineligible. The eligibility limits could be removed or raised, or operated more flexibly in individual cases.

2. There is an urgent need to develop alternative dispute resolution. The Bar Council's proposals for a pilot scheme to provide conciliation in non-matrimonial county court cases have yet to be accepted by the government. There is a great opportunity to develop new procedures for the early and cost-effective disposal of civil cases.

3. The Bar Council has reaffirmed the Bar's commitment to undertake legal aid work within a barrister's particular field of practice. A similar rule should apply to all advocates. I hope this will be accepted by all advocates seeking extended rights of audience. If it is not, the Courts and Legal Services Act can achieve this.

4. Computer facilities should be installed in all civil courts to reduce delay.

We must ensure that ordinary people have the same access to justice, including the same quality of representation, as that available to the big battalions. Implementing the four proposals I have made would help to achieve this goal.

• The author is chairman of the Bar.

Law Report November 6 1990 Court of Appeal

## Council applied wrong test in assessing intentional homelessness

**Regina v Newham London Borough Council, Ex parte Tower Hamlets London Borough Council**

Before Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Taylor [Judgment October 19]

In deciding whether or not an applicant for housing had acted reasonably in leaving his accommodation for the purposes of determining his intentional or unintentional homelessness under section 60 of the Housing Act 1985, a local authority should have regard to his former accommodation in the context of accepted standards within that local community, and should not compare that accommodation with the housing standard of the area to which he had applied.

Further, where one local authority failed to apply that test and also failed to take account of housing shortages within

another local authority to which it decided to refer the application for housing under section 67 of the 1985 Act, its decision was fatally flawed.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing Newham London Borough Council's appeal from the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Nolan) (*The Times* March 15) which had granted Tower Hamlets London Borough Council's application for judicial review and quashed Newham's decision referring to Tower Hamlets a housing application made by Mr Rashid Ullah under section 67 of the 1985 Act.

Mr David Watkinson for Newham; Mr Ashley Underwood and Miss Lucy Theis for Tower Hamlets; Mr Ullah was not present or represented.

**THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS** said that Mr Ullah had come to the United Kingdom from Bangladesh in 1972, returning there to his wife and

children in 1984. There he had lived in accommodation which was later described as conforming with the accepted standards in Bangladesh.

The test as to intentional homelessness was derived from section 60 of the Act. Although the Act was only concerned with homelessness within Great Britain, the relevant enquiry was not to be confined to events only occurring within the United Kingdom. What was in issue was why the applicant became homeless here.

His Lordship referred to the voluntary acts whereby Mr Ullah had left his accommodation in Bangladesh and come to Tower Hamlets. The essential question was therefore whether his conduct was reasonable.

Tower Hamlets' decision had been reached after an appropriate consideration of the relevant matters, including that his accommodation in Bangladesh was sealed and conformed with accepted standards there.

His Lordship referred to the

enquiries and report made by the housing officer in Newham and to the report of the homeless co-ordinator which considered the condition of Mr Ullah's accommodation in Bangladesh and, comparing it unfavourably with the prevailing standards of housing in Newham, concluded that it was not reasonable for Mr Ullah to have continued to live in the house in Bangladesh.

His Lordship considered that it was a most undesirable result that two different tribunals investigating questions of fact had reached different conclusions.

He considered why in the present case that had been so, in particular that Newham had not considered the basis and reasons for Tower Hamlets' decision. Had it done so, it would have discovered that different criteria had been applied and doubtless would have considered whether Tower Hamlets had adopted the correct approach which it should follow.

Mr Ullah was not just moving

from place to place, he was emigrating to a different country and continent. That involved his co-ordinator accepting available accommodation in Bangladesh in favour of temporary accommodation in Tower Hamlets which would become grossly overcrowded.

A relevant factor in judging the reasonableness of that decision was whether the accommodation which he was giving up conformed to the accepted standards of the community into which he had been born and had lived for most of his life.

That was not to say that the manifest deficiencies of that accommodation were irrelevant, but they had to be seen in the context of judging the reasonableness of his decision.

As a matter of law the power to refer was discretionary, although Newham might well not have appreciated that. The investigation as to whether the referral conditions existed was entrusted to the officer who had investigated the facts of Mr Ullah's application. On her conclusion that the conditions were met, the referral seemed to have been made without further enquiry or consideration.

His Lordship referred to the Divisional Court's consideration of Newham's failure to have regard to general housing conditions in Tower Hamlets. That court, quashing the referral, had concluded that that factor should have been considered, and that Newham's decision, reached solely by reference to its own determination on unintentional homelessness and without regard to Tower Hamlets' refusal to accept Mr Ullah as unintentionally homeless on grounds which included the chronic housing shortage in Tower Hamlets, could not be justified.

His Lordship considered that the Divisional Court's order could be upheld on broader grounds.

If there were to be a referral,

the referring authority had to be satisfied of the matters set out in section 67(1). While its decision could not be appealed, it could not be found to be referral if it was flawed to an extent and in respects which an appropriate judicial review proceedings would lead to its being quashed.

Newham's decision was so flawed in that it failed to take account of the general housing circumstances prevailing in Tower Hamlets, and instead took account of those in Newham, that it failed to consider the extent to which Mr Ullah's Bangladesh accommodation conformed to accepted local standards; that it failed to take account of his employment prospects, and to ascertain and consider Tower Hamlets' reasons for holding that he was intentionally homeless.

Had Newham approached that latter question as it should have done, it was highly likely that it would have reached the same conclusion as Tower Hamlets.

Good administration and compatibility between local authorities demanded that, in exercising a power, such as contained in section 67, the authority should take full account of the prevailing general housing circumstances in both areas and should give serious consideration to whether, notwithstanding that the referral conditions were met, the referral seemed to have been made without further enquiry or consideration.

That had not been done, and it was not for the court to do it and indirectly decide what Newham's decision should have been. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Taylor delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Mr G. M. Curran, Newham; Mr A. R. A. Cannell, Tower Hamlets.

## Importance of ancestor in citizenship

**Regina v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Ex parte Ross-Clemis**

Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith [Judgment October 12]

The word "ancestor" in section 32(7) of the British Nationality Act 1948 included a father. Therefore, a person born outside a Dominion country before the 1948 Act came into force, whose father was born in a Dominion country and whose paternal grandfather was born in England, was not deemed to be a citizen of that Dominion country under section 32(7) but became a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies under section 12(4) of the Act. Accordingly, such a person became a British citizen under the British Nationality Act 1981.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the applicant, Mr Nicholas John Ross-Clemis, from a decision of Mr Justice Keane QC given on November 17, 1989, whereby he dismissed the applicant's application for a declaration that he was a British citizen.

The applicant's paternal grandfather was born in England and his father in Cape Town. In 1936 the father married the applicant's mother, a British subject born in Cyprus. The applicant was born in Athens on July 6, 1948 and his birth was registered with the British Consul in Athens by his father. The applicant lived in Cyprus where he spent most of his life.

Section 1 of the 1948 Act provides: "(3) The following are the countries... referred to in the Union of South Africa,..."

Section 12 of the 1948 Act provides: "(4) A person who was a British subject immediately before the date of the commencement of this Act and does not become a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by virtue of any of the foregoing provisions of this section shall on that date become such a citizen unless... (a) he is then a citizen of any country mentioned in subsection (3) of this Act under a

citizenship law having effect in that country... or (b) he is then potentially a citizen of any country mentioned in subsection (3) of section 1 of this Act."

Section 32 provides: "(7) A person shall, in relation to any country mentioned in subsection (3) of section 1 of this Act, be deemed to be a citizen of that country if that date if his or his nearest ancestor in the male line who acquired British nationality otherwise than by reason of his parentage, acquired British nationality by any of the following means, that is to say (a) by birth within the territory comprised, at the date of the commencement of this Act in that country..."

Since it was relevant under section 32(1) to consider a father's place of birth, it seemed to his Lordship that it was equally relevant to consider the father's national status for the purposes of sections 12(4) and 32(7). Thus in his Lordship's view, the word "ancestor" in its context was apt to include "father".

The applicant submitted that the "British nationality" to which section 32(7) referred must, in relation to the father, mean his citizenship of the UK and Colonies. The father acquired that nationality by reason of his parentage, that is to say because his father, the grandfather, was born in England.

Thus, it was argued, the father did not come within the wording of section 32(7). It followed therefore that the applicant was not deemed by virtue of section 32(7) to be potentially a citizen of South Africa, and thus by section 12(4) became a citizen of the UK and Colonies on January 1, 1949.

His Lordship had not found that an easy point to decide but in the end concluded that the applicant's submission was correct.

Lord Justice Purchas and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Iqbal & Co, Treasury Solicitor.

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## THE LAW

## Into the heart of Europe

As the continental market grows, two British law firms are poised to take on the Germans on their own ground. Edward Fennell writes

**B**ritish fondness for self-criticism sometimes gets in the way of a true appreciation of our strengths. In the case of law, that means pausing occasionally from carping about solicitors and giving them credit for being the most enterprising, flexible and dynamic lawyers in Europe.

Evidence for this will come next week when the City firm Freshfields opens its office in Frankfurt. Clifford Chance is already there but only in association with a German firm. The Freshfields development is the first independent initiative by a leading London firm to get a toe-hold in the German market.

By going boldly into the heart of Germany's commercial community Freshfields has set out on a course — whether perilous or profitable remains to be seen — to challenge German firms on their own territory.

I expect that within ten years our Frankfurt office will be of the same size and status as our Paris office is today," says Julian Francis, who is to head the new enterprise. It is an ambitious boast because Freshfields' Paris office is one of the top six firms in the French capital and has a reputation for excellence independent of its London parent. If Freshfields does achieve its goal, however, it will represent an astonishing success for the British

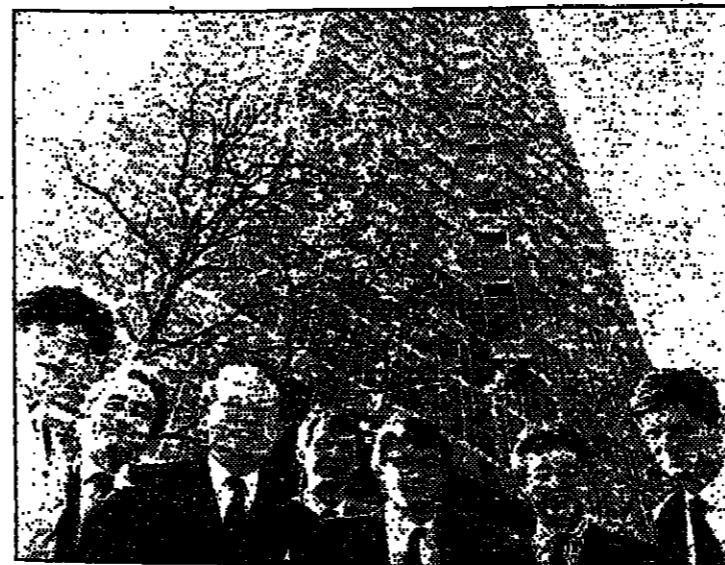
way of running legal services. According to Dr Peter Opitz, the German lawyer and former banker who will help to open the Frankfurt office, the leading German law firms are having to move fast to make up for lost time. With unification, the reform of the legal profession in Germany and increasing emphasis on the country's role as Europe's leading economy, the law firms are expanding to match the ambitions of their industrial and commercial clients.

To win business in such an environment Freshfields is carefully cultivating a pan-European image. Although there is no doubt that the firm's international headquarters are in London, Freshfields in Frankfurt will be a cosmopolitan atmosphere, with French as well as German and British lawyers in the office from next Monday. This multinational team will be the attraction for a large amount of cross-border work.

"We are aiming to do a lot of international mergers and acquisition work, joint venture work, as well as pure corporate finance and project financing in eastern Germany," Dr Opitz explains.

"We shall be able to do all of it within the same office — nobody else in Germany will be able to do the same."

So the question is whether such



Ready for the opposition: the Freshfields team in Frankfurt

"one-stop Euro shopping" will tempt clients away from established German firms. Nabarro Nathanson is equally ambitious when it comes to Germany but is working through tight network relationships. It already has its German associates, Raupach & Partners, and from next January it is merging with the Berlin firm of Bezzelberger, Mock, Zatzsch & Partners. At the same time it is formalising its association with Lambert Grohman & Keres, an Austrian commercial law practice, which also has an office in Budapest. In this way, according to partner Brian Clark, Nabarro Nathanson will reach into the heart of middle Europe.

"At the moment we are going for strong bilateral relationships with firms on the continent," Mr Clark says. "Once we have those in place then it may be appropriate to think in terms of extending those to become multilateral."

No doubt there is room for both approaches. But each has its risks. Dr Opitz says his experience in the banking world suggests that networks, ultimately, do not thrive, while Nabarro Nathanson argues that Freshfields will lose goodwill by steaming into Germany with its ambitions too clearly on display. Whichever turns out to be right, the European future of British lawyers may depend on these ventures.

## INNS AND OUTS

**T**he first meeting of a working party to examine the causes and extent of parental child abduction and to recommend changes in the law to deal with the problem was held at the House of Commons last week. Reunite, the National Council for Abducted Children, says the incidence of kidnapping by a parent after marriage breakdown is increasing, and ease of travel has increased the opportunities. A group of lawyers in the working party will meet in the next 12 months to consider improvements to the law. A separate group will consider how a profile of the typical abductor can be built up, to help judges making orders on custody and access. Reunite says abduction often occurs when the court has thought the non-custodial parent is unlikely to abduct and has therefore made an access order giving ample opportunity for kidnapping.

**W**hat is happening to the Law Society? Is it the presidency of Tony Holland or something in the tea? Hardly a day goes by when the public are not regaled with a strong and carefully considered statement on a pressing question of legal policy. There are calls for a more humane jail system and a prompt analysis of the new proposals on child maintenance and divorce, and concern over the apparent loss of an important remedy for tenants in the Environmental Bill. The solicitors' professional body, which for a long time has been regarded as little more than a trade union, with particular skill in representing its members' own interests, clearly has the potential to become an influential reforming voice.

**M**eanwhile, the more routine business of publishing the Law Society's annual statistics continues. This year's revealed there are now 4.5 per cent more solicitors than last year and that women make up 47 per cent of new entrants and 23 per cent of solicitors on the roll. Central London is absorbing more trainee solicitors than ever (42 per cent compared with 30 per cent in 1985-86) and more than half of all solicitors' firms are concentrated in the southeast. The profession as a whole turned over almost £4.5 billion in the year to March 31, 1990 — 18 per cent more than in the previous year. This could ensure that the popularity of solicitors will not shoot up dramatically, despite a few hard-hitting press releases.

**L**egal aid firm Deacon Goldrein Green has notched up another mark against its rivals with an expansion of its 13-office network in Liverpool to 20 across Merseyside. This makes DGG the largest one-firm network of high-street legal aid practitioners in Britain. With the acquisition of the Wirral practice of Gearing & Wilde, DGG's total staff is now 250. DGG is already a firm that other legal aid practitioners love to hate. At a time when lawyers were preaching the difficulties of making ends meet on legal aid fees, DGG was showing that such work, done in bulk, can pay. The Lord Chancellor's officials were sufficiently impressed to pay a visit. David Deacon, a senior partner, says: "We consider the Wirral as the natural springboard to establishing a major regional presence within a very short time." He says DGG will bring its "aggressive marketing style and effective systems" into increasingly diverse areas of work.

**I**t is no secret how much American lawyers want a big slice of the European cake, and the New York giant Shearman & Sterling will help itself to a choice piece when it moves into Germany in the new year with offices in Frankfurt and Düsseldorf. Its competitors may be interested to note that the new branch offices will be practising German, American and European Community law. The appropriation of local lawyers is the most promising route to European penetration for American firms, and Shearman has captured a senior German lawyer, Georg Thoma, from the Düsseldorf firm Galler Meyer-Landrat Miller to head its German operation.

SCRIVENOR

## Raising the roof over rent reviews

**N**OBODY should underestimate the importance of rent reviews. Asset values are at stake and, in marginal cases, the solvency of the company may turn on the outcome. It is not surprising that rent reviews are a fertile ground for litigation. What may be surprising is the extent to which some people are prepared to press seemingly unreasonable arguments.

One of the most popular games for tenants is taking up abstruse points with a view to delaying the entire procedure. If the new rent does not have to be paid until the rent review is settled, although it will be applied retrospectively once a settlement is achieved, the tenant thereby gains a substantial cash flow advantage.

In one case the lease had only a limited time to make an application for the ap-

pointment of an independent surveyor to fix the review. The landlord's agents applied but in their letter they said they did not want the surveyor to take any immediate action, so that there was a further opportunity to negotiate. The tenants claimed that this addition invalidated the application. When this argument was rejected by the High Court, the tenants took it to the Court of Appeal, gaining an extra two years' delay. The rent review of 1984 was thus postponed until 1987. The trusted landlords, Montague Executor and Trustee Company, were not annoyed.

Another common ploy is to find some words in the lease that change the basis on which the rent is assessed. Normally a rent review will be based on ordinary open market lettings. However, if the

lease has special directions as to how the rent is assessed, as almost all rent review clauses do, the door is open for the nit-pickers.

The most famous example of this, now on its way to a fifth court hearing, this time in the House of Lords, turns on whether the rent should be valued on the basis that there will be regular future rent reviews or on the hypothetical basis that there will be no rent review for the next 20 years. The advantage of a lease without rent reviews is obvious and tenants are assumed to be happy to pay a higher rent to avoid future reviews.

In the particular case involving accountants Arthur Young a nuance in the relevant clause allowed the landlords to argue that the valuation should ignore the fact that the lease provided for future rent reviews. The landlords claimed that

the rent review had to be fixed in the world of "make believe" on terms quite different from those of the actual lease. This argument was upheld by the judge, and a quirk in arbitration law prevented rights of appeal, so the tenants were stuck for the next five years with an annual rent of £200,000 above the true market figure. The present litigation turns on whether the case is capable of being re-litigated.

What are we to do? The key advice is to check the lease well in advance, approximately 18 months before the review. It is usually easier to sort out potentially expensive problems before the heat of battle brings with it the entrenchment of opposing views.

JOHN SAMSON

• The author is a partner at Nabarro Nathanson and editor of *Property Law Bulletin*.

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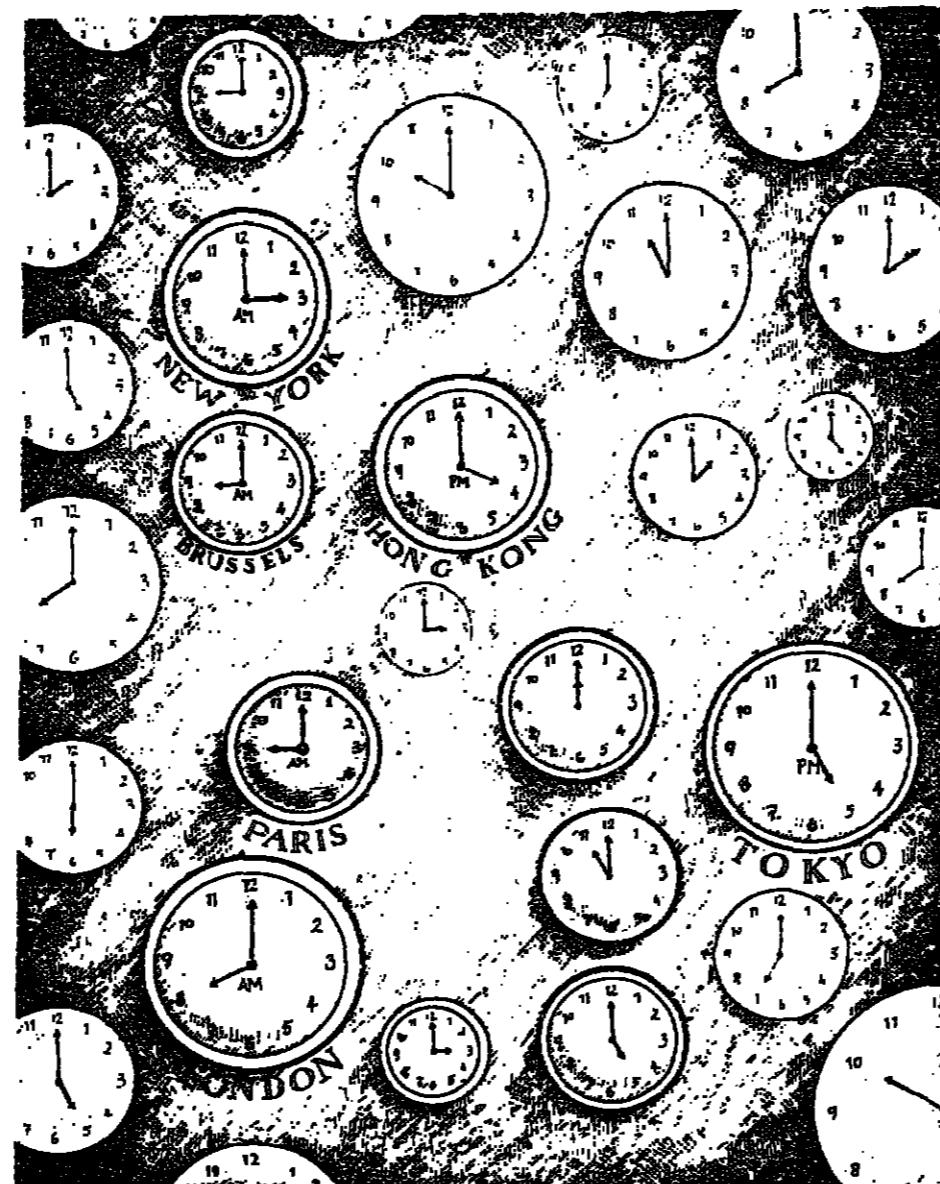
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Applications are also invited from well-qualified contentious specialists. Exposure to property-related disputes would be particularly useful, ideally upwards of 2 years', but those with broad experience of commercial litigation are also encouraged to apply; certainly, the overall calibre of candidates will be as important as precise background.

Remuneration for these posts will be very competitive – reflecting our client's policy of competing for the best-available talent – and will include a comprehensive large-company package. Appointees will also benefit from the attractive Norwich location and surrounding countryside.

For further information please telephone Philip Boynton, LL.B., LL.M., on 071-405 6852 or write to him at Reuter Simkin Limited, Recruitment Consultants, 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 1DY.

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The European Fast Stream, a scheme established by the Civil Service to groom high-flyers for success at the most senior levels at home or abroad, offers you the opportunity to flex your legal muscle in Europe.

As a qualified lawyer you will be offered a choice of joining the European Fast Stream as a lawyer with the Government Legal Service, or as an administrator. As a law graduate you will take on an administrative role in policy formulation, policy implementation or possibly a Minister's office. Either way, you will be given real responsibility from day one, undertaking a series of postings and training schemes which will be carefully selected to offer experience of European problems and issues, leading up to the European Community competition. Study visits to Brussels and Luxembourg will form part of the programme, and language tuition will be provided if needed.

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Your salary as a lawyer in Central London, will be in the range £18,990 to £31,550. Slightly lower rates will apply to law graduates in administrative posts.

All candidates should have (or expect to obtain) a good honours law degree and be under 33 on 1 October 1990. Those who wish to work in the Government Legal Service must in addition be a barrister or solicitor qualified in England and Wales, or an advocate or solicitor qualified in Scotland.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 5 December 1990) write to the Civil Service Commission, Menlo Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 460551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Please quote ref: A91/1127.

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A Significant Following

Solicitors from small firms tend to be at a disadvantage when competing for jobs with solicitors from the larger firms. Their c.v.s lack the cachet of a Linklaters or a Slaughter & May. In the thin job-market of today, however, they often have one particular advantage over the large-firm solicitors and that is their personal client following. Solicitors from the giant City firms are rarely in a position to bring work with them when they move. They bring their connections, of course, and the potential for building up a practice on this basis, but the allegiance of the large blue-chip corporation is to the firm rather than the individual. With the small firm, on the other hand, the allegiance of clients is likely to be to their individual solicitor. Small-firm solicitors, especially those whose practice is non-contentious, can often promise a personal following to the value of, say, £50,000 to £200,000.

Twelve months ago, when most firms had more business than they could handle, an average following was no great attraction. Today it can make all the difference. We have many firms on our books in all parts of the country (including well-known medium-sized firms) asking us to keep them informed of candidates who can bring work with them in almost any discipline. It is becoming an important part of our job, therefore, to help candidates analyse their personal followings and prepare a fair summary for presentation to our clients.

Michael Chambers

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Applications are invited from planning specialists with considerable experience in the preparation and conduct of planning enquiries and appeals. A generous salary package will be offered to the successful candidate who will benefit from working in a friendly, supportive and rapidly developing environment.

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The role will involve providing advice on a broad range of issues including probate, UK and offshore trust administration and tax planning.

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For further details please contact Clive Henderson on 071-236 7307 or write to him at 20 Cousin Lane, London EC4R 3TE. Fax: 071-489 1130.

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As our operations continue to expand we require an additional Legal Counsel experienced in negotiating, drafting and managing all types of oil field contracts.

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and act as interface between the UK Government and Partners on legal matters.

Qualified to practice law in the UK, you will have at least 7 years' experience, preferably within the oil industry in a legal/contract/commercial environment. Proven negotiating and drafting skills and an ability to identify commercial exposures are also required.

Occidental can offer you an excellent salary and benefits package which includes a prestigious company car, generous relocation and life assurance scheme.

Please write, enclosing a resume of your experience, to:  
Human Resources Dept.,  
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## HORIZONS

# Earth's secret-seekers

When the Queen launches the RRS James Clark Ross, a new £35 million ship designed for polar exploration, next month, she will be marking the end of an anniversary year celebrating 25 years of research by the Natural Environment Research Council.

The ship will join four others in the council's fleet, which provides a platform for marine science investigations and helps to supply its five Antarctic research stations.

The council was studying the environment and training scientists to work in this field long before it became a popular issue. This year it is spending £33 million on its research centres, training postgraduate scientists and encouraging environmental studies in higher education.

The council offers a wide array of opportunities to those who want to do something about the environment instead of merely being involved in rhetoric, and to the people who are attracted by the idea of studying the environment as scientists to understand the mechanisms that cause it to change.

More than 2,500 staff are employed at the research centres and this year the council is also providing the finance for 290 students to start postgraduate research projects related to the environment in British universities. A further 206 awards are being given to finance students doing advanced courses in the environmental sciences.

The council's full-time scientists and technicians, an increasing number of whom are on short-term contracts, are em-

## Scientists with the Natural Environment Research Council investigate the planet's problems. Neil Harris looks at their work

ployed at the many research centres. These centres include the British Antarctic Survey, the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences, the British Geological Survey and the Plymouth Marine Laboratory.

Together the centres provide research opportunities for scientists from a wide range of disciplines, including biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, geology and environmental science.

These scientists are recruited in small numbers every year as scientific officers or assistants. A few engineers are also sought to work in design or other technical supporting roles, many of which are related to the design, maintenance and operation of equipment used in experiments at sea.

"Recruitment to the Earth sciences — the integrated environmental science of the 20th and 21st centuries, inextricably linked with mankind's continued existence on, and safe custody of, this planet — is essential," says Mary Thornton, of the council's Earth Sciences Directorate.

The council's scientists have recently been using novel tech-

niques to probe deep into chambers of molten rock, deep under the seabed. These are thought to provide the source of volcanic eruptions. They play a vital role in the creation of the Earth's crust and are linked with mineral-rich hot springs where life flourishes without sunlight.

At the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences in Godalming, Surrey, scientists are investigating the ocean and the geology of the deep sea floor. Research vessels moored at Barry, in South Wales, make long cruises, which are joined by different scientific teams to perform experiments in their particular areas of interest. Global warming and climatic change are among the subjects being studied, especially how they affect the atmosphere and the oceans.

Environmentalists hope we shall understand during the next 25 years that we could devastate our own planet if we are careless. The council will monitor progress, detect what is happening, and research trends that could have a marked effect on our future. It is a challenge many scientists will want to take up.

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perature and height of the sea, its underlying currents and the global wind field.

Is the sea level rising or falling? Scientists are collecting monthly data at 1,300 places around the world to detect changes as they happen. They aim to provide information for offshore engineering, coastal management and research into changes in the climate.

A five-year investigation into water quality in the North Sea is another project, this one being investigated by the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratories on Merseyside.

Scientists there are developing a computer-based model to predict water quality. A 15-month cruise has already gathered a large quantity of data, which is being used to look for the effects of seasonal changes, winter storms and summer sunshine on the North Sea.

It is estimated, for example, that 8,000 tonnes of zinc are deposited in the North Sea every year through rain and a roughly equal amount from rivers.

Plymouth Marine Laboratory is one of several centres doing research in the marine sciences. Topics they are studying include predicting how ecosystems work in estuaries and investigating how individual plant and animal species fit in.

Environmentalists hope we shall understand during the next 25 years that we could devastate our own planet if we are careless. The council will monitor progress, detect what is happening, and research trends that could have a marked effect on our future. It is a challenge many scientists will want to take up.



Matching water and weather: Brian King in his laboratory

BRIAN KING's research at the Institute of Oceanographic Science in Godalming, Surrey, is just one part of the World Ocean Circulation Experiment, an international effort to improve our understanding of how the behaviour of the oceans and the weather are related.

"One goal is to understand how the ocean varies from year to year, decade to decade," Mr King says. "We have made measurements in the Atlantic on cruises in the Bay of Biscay. We chose a place where the upper ocean is well mixed in winter and warm on the surface in summer. Our measurements were an attempt to detect signals of climatic change as far as 500 metres down into the sea. We know the water on top absorbs carbon dioxide from the air, then mixes deeper in the ocean and moves south."

"My experiments are designed to find out whether the ocean can absorb carbon dioxide fast enough to regulate the greenhouse effect."

"We measure the water temperature to a few thousandths of a degree and the salinity to three parts per million. Our two main techniques are lowering instruments while the ship is stationary and taking measurements down to the sea bed, or using an instrument that cycles between the surface and 350 metres as it is towed along."

"My work is funded by National Power, which has given me a five-year fellowship. On the ship I have 15 scientists, who run the instruments and help to collect data."

"In the laboratory I am analysing the results largely on my own. I studied maths and fluid mechanics at university. This project is ideal for me because it combines my interest and expertise."

## 071-481 1066 PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS 071-481 1066

### THE DORSET TRUST Chief Executive

SALARY c.£34,000 + EXECUTIVE CAR

Five year fixed term contract

This newly formed Charitable Company will manage a significant number of homes for elderly people. The Company will be one of the largest independent providers of residential care for elderly people in the country.

A Chief Executive is needed who combines commercial and business acumen with a compassionate concern for elderly people. High quality care is essential. The company must also be managed efficiently. An extensive buildings improvement and development programme is being instituted.

The Chief Executive must be a good communicator, a team builder and able to work confidently to an appointed Board of Directors.

The Company will have an annual turnover in excess of £3 million. The Board are seeking someone with a wide breadth and depth of management experience and a proven track record. Financial experience will be a decided advantage. Professional qualifications are sought and graduate or post graduate status or a MBA, while not an essential requirement, will reflect the intellectual qualities required to do the job.

Closing date for applications 27 November 1990.

For further details write to: The Secretary, The Dorset Trust, Wadham House, 50 High West Street, DORCHESTER, Dorset, DT1 1UT. or ring: Sharon Wyatt on Dorchester 204180 or Leanne Matthews on Dorchester 204643.

### Director of Marketing

This is a new appointment at top level in the MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION. The charity, which has an acknowledged reputation for pioneering work relating to the mentally ill and mentally handicapped, has embarked on a course of more rapid growth.

Responding to the Director-General, the role is to take a leading part in planning and implementing the marketing strategy. Responsibility covers all aspects of the Marketing Division, including fundraising, media and public relations and liaison with suppliers.

Achievement at high level in a competitive and professional marketing setting is essential. Equally important is the temperament suited to a small, lively top team. Experience in the voluntary sector would be useful.

Salary at least £30,000. Location, Central London. Write in confidence with CV to Geoffrey Elms, Charity Appointments, 3 Spital Yard, London E1 6AQ.

### Charity Appointments

A registered charity serving the voluntary sector.

### SENIOR ANALYST

Salary within range £14,130-£15,645 per annum.

Applications are invited for the above position, within the Scientific Services Department of the Company's Head Office at Frimley Green.

The Department has a present staff of 15 and is responsible for the collection, analysis and reporting of samples tested both chemically and microbiologically, as required by the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 1989.

Applications are invited from persons qualified in Chemistry to degree level or equivalent, with at least two years relevant work experience, using modern analytical techniques including Gas Chromatography and possibly Mass Spectroscopy.

We offer the following benefits: training on an individual basis, private health care, relocation package, contributory pension scheme, 35 hour week, canteen facilities, sports and social club.

For an informal discussion call Mr A.F. Dewey, Water Quality Manager, on 0252 835031, ext 247.

For an application form and further details contact Miss J.L. Day, Personnel Department, Mid Southern Water Company, Frimley Green, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6HZ. Telephone 0252 835031, ext 309.

Closing date for applications: 16 November 1990.

### THE COMMISSION AND THE COURT OF AUDITORS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

are organising open competition EUR/B/21 based on tests, to constitute a reserve of

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(category B5/B4) for work in the following areas:

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If you are a national (male or female) one of the twelve Member States of the European Community, and are interested in working in the challenging and stimulating atmosphere of an international organisation, check if you satisfy the following conditions: □ you must have been born after 7/12/1954; □ have completed a course of advanced secondary education and obtained at least 2 GCE 'A' levels; 3 Scottish Higher passes; □ have at least 2 years practical experience in one of the above-mentioned areas; □ have a thorough knowledge of one of the official Community languages (Danish, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese or Spanish), and a satisfactory knowledge of a second of these languages.

Successful candidates can expect to work in Brussels or Luxembourg.

Applications must be made on the official application form, which together with full details of the competition can be obtained by writing, preferably on a postcard, to:

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, Recruitment Unit, EUR/B/21, rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels; or to:

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, Office in the United Kingdom, 8 Storey's Gate, London SW1 P 3AT; Office in Northern Ireland, Windsor House, 9/15 Bedford Street, Belfast BT2 7EC;

Office in Wales, 4 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF1 9SC;

Office in Scotland, 7 Alva Street, Edinburgh EH2 4PH.

Closing date for submission of applications: 7/12/1990.

The Commission and the Court of Auditors policy is to ensure equal opportunities for men and women.

### LEGAL

#### Solicitor

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- Professional fees paid

This new position has been created in order to provide comprehensive advice on all legal matters relevant to the Council's activities. Your expertise will cover areas such as Advocacy, Planning, Contract, Current Legislation and Case Law. Experience of local government would be advantageous. Whilst appearing on the behalf of the Council at public enquiries, your brief will extend to attending meetings of the Committees and Sub-Committees of the Authority and ensuring that all legal and associated procedures are observed. In addition, you will provide assistance with the day-to-day management of the Department.

If you possess the necessary ambition, expertise and ability to succeed within this challenging role, please write for an application form and job description to the Personnel Officer, Blaby District Council, Council Offices, Desford Road, Narborough, Leicester LE9 5KP or telephone Leicester (0533) 750555 ext. 213.

Closing Date: 15th November 1990

24C

### BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

### ESSEX MAGISTRATES COURTS COMMITTEE NORTH AND WEST ESSEX CLERKSHIP

#### Legal Adviser

Salary Range £13,578 - £24,363 (career Grade) plus £248 fringe allowance

Full time or Job Share

This post is based in Epping. The work undertaken in this new and enlarged Clerkship allows a wide range of experience to be gained, and can supply an ideal background for anyone looking to further their career. The post is tailor made for someone wishing to participate fully in the development of the Magistrates' Courts Service.

The person appointed would join a team of dedicated staff who enjoy the challenge for working in courts providing a varied case load. Responsibilities in and out of Court will be provided.

You should be a Solicitor or Barrister or have a law degree or have passed the CPE with at least 2 years experience in Magistrates' Courts, or have a Diploma in Magisterial Law. Commencing grade and salary dependant on experience and qualifications. A performance related pay scheme in addition to the above salary is to be introduced for people on the maximum of the career grade.

There are good reasons for applying for this post:

- good all round experience in busy Courts.
- situated close to London (but without the hassle) and easily accessible from all parts of the country.
- generous relocation package up to £5,000 plus full removal costs and mortgage subsidy is available in approved cases.
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Application form and further details are available from the Clerk of the Committee (Personnel Section), County Chelmsford CM1 1LX Tel: (0245) 422211 Ext: 24101 quoting Post No: M513. For informal enquiries please telephone Nigel Wilcox (Clerk to the Justice Committee) (0279) 425108 or Chris Rayner (Deputy Clerk) on (0376) 20583.

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Knowsley Park Industrial Estate

Penryn Road

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Merseyside L34 9HY.

### Sheffield Family Health Services Authority

### Financial Resources Manager

£16,500 - £18,500 + PRP

Can you manage a cash limited budget of £25 million using existing financial databases and developing new budgetary control systems to enable the forecasting, monitoring and control of GMS expenditure. Experience of micro computers essential. Relevant professional qualifications an advantage.

Further details and information pack available from Personnel Department, FHSA, Brinsford House, Osborn Road, Sheffield S11 9BD Tel 0742 588211. Closing date for return of completed application forms is 23rd Nov 1990.

For further details, apply to the Clerk of the Committee, County Chelmsford CM1 1LX Tel: (0245) 422211 Ext: 24101 quoting Post No: M513. For informal enquiries please telephone Nigel Wilcox (Clerk to the Justice Committee) (0279) 425108 or Chris Rayner (Deputy Clerk) on (0376) 20583.

## ROWING

# Time for inquisition as highest hopes fade in frustration

From RICHARD BURNELL  
IN TASMANIA

## MEDAL TABLE

THE long journey home from Tasmania will give members of the British team in the world championships ample time to contemplate the results. Hopes were so high, the outcome so frustrating.

To reach eight grand finals out of the 14 events in which British crews started cannot be described as failure by any means. Only Australia, East and West Germany, the United States and Romania reached more grand finals. The frustrating aspect of the British results was that they included no top placings, two bronze medals where silver or gold had been expected, and four fourth places, all of which could, and three of which should, have been medals on previous form.

With the exception of Britain's youthful heavyweight eight, all Britain's fourth-placed finishers must have been hoping for bronze medals at least. And the two crews which achieved bronze, Matthew Pinten and Steven Redgrave in the coxless pair and the Nottinghamshire county lightweight eight, were probably expecting gold or silver placings.

The unpalatable fact is that seven of Britain's eight final-

ists performed at less than their anticipated optimum. At that point the inquisitor's eye must turn to the coaches as well as to the rowers.

The coxless pair, without doubt, were the flagship of the British fleet. Matthew Pinten, as the latest of Redgrave's partners, recruited when Simon Berrisford suffered injury during Henley regatta, did all that could possibly have been expected of him. If he perseveres, his day of triumph will surely come.

But did Redgrave, the multi-medal star of the British team do all that was expected of him? Or has he lost his appetite for success and forgotten how hard he had to fight for it six or seven years ago?

## FISHING

## Buffers feel held to ransom

By CONRAD VOSS BARK

OLD buffers are apt to deplore the cost of fishing. They blanch at the millions paid for even small parts of a salmon river, at the mortgage needed to join a minor syndicate on a chalk stream at the large amount of their monthly payment that have to be paid on the new fly line.

The buffer brigade should not be mocked. They have seen better days half a century ago when inflation did not have them quite so strongly by the throat. We have a case to quote.

You may remember that not long ago, I praised the action of cane rods for trout fly fishing, in particular the Hardy C.C. de France which I had brought out of retirement to fish the Wye and was surprised how much I

enjoyed using it. The cane had a wonderful feel about it even though it must have been at least 50 years old.

As a result of that article, I had a very pleasant letter from a gentleman in Surrey who had been given a C.C. de France in 1932 as a 21st birthday present. He had kept the rod and enclosed a copy. It more than justifies what the old buffer have been complaining about. Here are the details of the cost of fly fishing tackle 59 years ago:

9ft C.C. de France, pole-akoni split bamboo fly rod, one top cork handle, suction joint, snake rings £4 12s od 2 casts ..... 2s 10d 1 doz dry flies ..... 4s

The total cost, including a wooden box, and the carriage came to £6 10s 9d, but there appeared to have been a discount as the bill was received for £6 10s over a two-penny stamp as was customary in those days signed over the stamp B Thompson for Hardy of Pall Mall. There was no purchase tax, no value added tax. The casts were of gut and the line which my correspondent already had, would be of braided silk.

Up to a year or so ago, the rod was in regular use "but now like its owner is beginning to show its age". It had lost part of its top joint so that it is now used "only when I wish to give myself a treat and revive old memories".

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Interviews for the Secretary to the Careers Adviser/National Development Officer will be held on Tuesday 11th December.

Interviews for the Secretary to Assistant Directors will be held in mid January.

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## The view from the Queens Borough Bridge



Keeping in touch: Brace and elite group, Wakihuri (No. 2), Ikaanga (No. 1) and Garcia, crossing into Manhattan

## Brace in the premier division

From DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK

ALL THE statistics to emerge

from the 21st New York

Marathon on Sunday, one

stood above the rest. Steve

Brace, the Welshman who

finished third in a field of

25,000, made it to what he

described as "the premier

division" in his 35th mara-

thon. In his first, nine years

ago, he ran 3hr 24min.

Slower than my debut,

Jacqueline, his wife, said.

Six weeks ago Brace limped

out of an endurance stage

race from Glasgow to

London before halfway. He

missed six days training but

came here still believing he

might run a fast time. On a

hot day, which produced the

slowest men's winner for six

years and the slowest women's

champion for 12, Brace

discovered that simply by

sticking to his first half-

marathon schedule of 65

minutes he was in an elite

leading group of four.

They included Douglas

Wakihuri, the world and

Commonwealth champion,

from Kenya, and Juma

Ikaanga, who has run under

2hr 09min six times.

In the humidity of Auckland, Brace finished ninth in the Commonwealth marathon, some four minutes outside his best of 2:11:50.

His priority remains a faster

time. "Tokyo will have simi-

lar conditions to the

Commonwealth Games and I

am not prepared to be

beaten through it again. I

know a fast time is there if I

can find the right day."

Brace reached halfway one

second inside schedule. "I

was looking to come through

— this was not a characteristic

race for me," he said. "It was

beginning to worry me. I have

never thought myself to be

anywhere near on a par with

these guys. I have moved up

from division two to the

premier division."

Britain, though, will probably

have to do without him at

the world championships in

Tokyo next year. One day

he may find himself com-

peting on it his next

sporting challenge is as a

finalist in the BBC amateur

sport commentator of the

sporting year competition."

Wakihuri, incidentally,

has just confirmed he will

be in London next year. One day

he may find himself com-

peting on it his next

sporting challenge is as a

finalist in the BBC amateur

sport commentator of the

sporting year competition."

Meanwhile, John Campbell,

aged 41, won more

money than anybody because

of a \$25,000 (about £13,000)

bonus for being the first

veteran in Los Angeles, Bos-

ton and New York. His total

earnings exceeded £30,000.

Campbell, a New Zealander,

has come a long way since

struggling to make ends meet

three years ago running a

Dartford chip shop.

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1 success

By MANDARIN



DESERT Orchid, fast approaching his twelfth birthday, can show he is as good as ever by accounting for two talented rivals in a mouth-watering Plymouth Gin Haldon Gold Challenge Cup Chase at Devon and Exeter today.

While David Elsworth, his trainer, and Richard Burridge, the principal owner, have in the last week expressed confidence that the nation's equine idol has retained all his ability and enthusiasm, they have also stressed that a record fourth victory in the King George VI and Queen Chase, more than seven weeks hence, is his primary objective for the first half of the season.

However, there is no doubt that Desert Orchid is the type of horse who comes to hand quickly after the summer recess and he has won on his reappearance in each of the last four seasons. In addition, this year's grade two prize is

Burridge believes Desert Orchid retains his ability

certainly worth winning in its own right.

The distance of two miles and a furlong is arguably some way short of his optimum these days and, indeed, one of his two defeats last season came over two miles at Sandown where he failed to concede two stone to Long Engagement.

The fact remains, though,

that he is officially rated 19lb and 27lb superior respectively to his two principal opponents today, Waterloo Boy and Sabine Du Loir.

With David Nicholson's string in fine form, Waterloo Boy will be well fancied to upset Desert Orchid over a distance which favours him. However, the Champion Chase runner-up has been beaten on his reappearance in two of the last three seasons and won by only a head on his first run of 1988-89, receiving 6lb from the runner-up, Acclaim, in a run-of-the-mill handicap chase.

Waterloo Boy has Sabin Du Loir 7/4 lengths behind in fourth when beaten half a length by Barnbrook Again in the Champion Chase in March but had earlier been beaten 27/4 lengths by Martin Pipe's versatile performer in the Condicote trainer.

For the day's best bet, though, I go to Nottingham where Change The Name is taken to concede weight all

been slightly over the top by the time the National Hunt Festival came round and he is marginally preferred to Waterloo Boy for forecast purposes.

Best of the supporting races at Devon is the Whitbread Pub Partnerships Handicap Chase in which Golden Fox is expected to confirm his superiority over Royal Battery.

My selection had Royal Battery 20 lengths back in fourth when a head second to Biziage Motors in a valuable Ascot novice chase in April yet receives 2lb from his old rival here.

However, Waterloo Boy fares at Devon, David Nicholson should be on the mark at Hereford where Springfield (2.0), Fast Study (2.30) and Barnbridge (3.0) appear as likely winners for the Condicote trainer.

For the day's best bet, though, I go to Nottingham where Change The Name is

run in the Tyne Handicap Hurdle.

This four stayer's last two runs can be safely ignored as he was paraded by an inexperienced lady amateur at Kelso last time and previously ran over fences.

Prior to that he had failed by half a length to concede 7lb at Perth to the useful Jaunty G, who completed a four-timer at Wetherby on Saturday. With the talented Paul Midgley, who rode him at Perth, taking 7lb off his back, Change The Name has strong claims in this company.

On the Flat at Hamilton, Malmar can gain his first victory for 19 months in the Finishing Post Sprint Handicap. Formerly with Richard Shaw, Malmar is having his first run for Mark Tompkins today.

My other principal fancy at the Scottish track is Paint The Lily (1.0), who finished a promising fourth to Ayrlyn on her Leicester debut last week.

Going: good to firm (chase course); good (hurdles)

1.15 COLWICK NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,360; 2m 1f) (24 runners)

1 21121- DESERT ORCHID (F) (D Brough) D Brough 11-11-0 — R Downe 89

2 65212- KNOCKBRACK (2d D.F.G.S) (G Holmes) G Ham 11-11-0 — R Powell 80

3 41114- SABIN DU LOIR (F) (P Kilpatrick) M Pipe 11-11-0 — P Scudamore 80

4 21224- WATERLOO BOY 213 (D.F.G.S) (N Dealey) D Nicholson 7-11-0 — J Osborne 80

5 22143- BETTER COMPANY (F) (D R Barber) R Hooper 6-10-0 — W Irvine 80

BETTING: 10-11 Desert Orchid, 7-10 Waterloo Boy, 6-11 Sabin Du Loir, 6-12 Knockbrack, Sett Country

1989: PANTO PRINCE 8-1-1 B P (D Brough) 11-11-0 P (Pip) 5m 5f

2.15 PLYMOUTH GIN HALDON GOLD CHALLENGE CUP CHASE (Grade II; £15,570; 2m 1f (5 runners))

1 21121- DESERT ORCHID (F) (D Brough) D Brough 11-11-0 — R Downe 89

2 65212- KNOCKBRACK (2d D.F.G.S) (G Holmes) G Ham 11-11-0 — R Powell 80

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1.15 CAMDEN NOVICES HURDLE (£1,360; 2m 1f) (24 runners)

1 18 DRINKY'S DOUBLE 7 (F) (P Rogers) R Frost 11-0 — J Frost

2 65212- PUSSY LOVER (F) (D Stobbs) R Frost 11-0 — J Frost

3 41114- FLORET 13 (F) (P Rogers) R Frost 11-0 — Date McFadden

4 21224- GREY SONATA 11 (F) (P Rogers) C Popham 10-9 — A Carroll

5 65212- HUMMING LAD 7 (Unicorn Bloodstock) Lut K Cunningham Brown 10-8 — R Guest

6 41011- MUMMY'S FOX (Mrs K O'Sullivan) J Frost 10-9 — S Fox (7)

7 65212- BAYBERRY 10 (P) (Pip) T Hooper 10-9 — R Guest

8 55212- BELLWICK 11 (A) (Watson) J Frost 10-9 — M Bowley

9 65212- FIRST EXHIBITION 4 (Guy) Mys A Knight 10-9 — G Knight

10 65212- MILTON KISS 12 (T Connor) W Turner 10-9 — G Knight

11 65212- MISS EURILON 13 (P) (Pip) C Popham 10-9 — P Scudamore

12 65212- MUSICAL STARS 14 (P) (Pip) C Popham 10-9 — R Bowden

13 65212- ROYAL RESORT 25 (F) (Pip) R Hooper 10-9 — R Bowden

14 65212- ROYAL RESORT 25 (F) (Pip) R Hooper 10-9 — R Bowden

15 65212- SILENT STORM 15 (F) (Pip) R Hooper 10-9 — R Bowden

BETTING: 11-14 Drinky's Double, 6-11 Pussuy Lover, 6-12 Bellwicks, 10-11 First Exhibition, 6-12 Bayberry, 10-11 Bellwicks, 10-12 Milton Kiss, 10-13 Musical Stars, 6-14 Royal Resort, 10-14 Silent Storm

1.15 ST AUSTELL BREWERY COMPANY NOVICES HURDLE (£1,360; 2m 1f) (16 runners)

1 21121- DESERT ORCHID (F) (D Brough) D Brough 11-11-0 — R Downe 89

2 65212- KNOCKBRACK (2d D.F.G.S) (G Holmes) G Ham 11-11-0 — R Powell 80

3 41114- SABIN DU LOIR (F) (P Kilpatrick) M Pipe 11-11-0 — P Scudamore 80

4 21224- WATERLOO BOY 213 (D.F.G.S) (N Dealey) D Nicholson 7-11-0 — J Osborne 80

5 65212- BETTER COMPANY (F) (D R Barber) R Hooper 6-10-0 — W Irvine 80

BETTING: 10-11 Desert Orchid, 7-10 Waterloo Boy, 6-11 Sabin Du Loir, 6-12 Knockbrack, Sett Country

1.15 BASS WEST OF ENGLAND JUVENILE SELLING HURDLE (3-Y-O; £1,702; 2m 1f) (16 runners)

1 18 DRINKY'S DOUBLE 7 (F) (P Rogers) R Frost 11-0 — J Frost

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8 55212- SILENT STORM 15 (F) (Pip) R Hooper 10-9 — R Bowden

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Rugby union officials express 'grave concern' over controversial clause

# RFU calls for rethink on amateurism regulations

By DAVID HANNS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) yesterday delivered a resounding slap in the face to the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB). Though couched in diplomatic language, the union — which is one of the eight senior members of the IRFB — has thrown back at the board the clause in the amateur regulations that would permit players to benefit directly from the game, by asking for it to be rescinded.

The RFU committee, which met last Friday to debate the October decision by the IRFB to liberalise the amateur regulations, was unanimous (with two abstentions) in expressing its "grave concern and disappointment" at the IRFB's decision which it felt completely undermined the

essential amateurism of the game".

The contentious clause (4.32) in the revised regulation on communication for reward would permit players to benefit from the game if the national union to which they belonged agreed. It is discretionary and comes into effect on December 1, but the RFU has already lodged a proposal for discussion at the IRFB annual meeting in London in March that the clause should be deleted.

It is aware it may be a futile gesture, but believes the implications of the vote taken in Edinburgh have not been fully thought through, and expects to receive the sympathy of many associate members of the IRFB and define those activities which are not permitted.

As RFU officials gave their reasons for doing so, their audience included represen-

tatives of a promotions company run by Bob Willis, the former England cricketer, and David, his brother. Bob Willis said he had been appointed as agent to 22 leading players, including all but three of those on duty for England against Argentina at the weekend. The union admits, though, that the commercial activities of its players will require handling by an authorised agent.

Officials emphasised the ex-

tent to which they were al-

ready consulting with their

own players. They want to

establish a working party of

players and committee mem-

bers to explore areas of

opportunities for individuals

to benefit within the amateur

regulations as adopted by the

RFU and define those activi-

ties which are not permitted.

Inevitably this would lead

to a contract which players

representing their country would be required to sign. The RFU anticipates any draft agreement relating to the conduct of players being handed down, perhaps in modified form, to the divisions, counties and clubs, and to this end has been studying both existing tour agreements and the agreement which the New Zealand Rugby Union requires players in representative games to sign.

"We believe we are acting absolutely within our rights," Michael Pearcy, the RFU president, said. "There was some debate in committee as to whether the IRFB was within its rights in producing a regulation which had not been promulgated beforehand."

Pearcy confirmed that the rest of the revised regulation was accepted by the RFU.

"The players were very

conscious that they wanted to

stick together and not be

picked off by individual

agents," Pearcy said. He

admitted there was a danger

that England players would

consider themselves at a dis-

advantage relative to other

countries, but said there had

been a favourable reaction

among the players so far to the

prospect of working alongside

the union.

"We would like to agree

with the players to an agent

being appointed to look after

their interests," Pearcy said.

"If we work with the players,

as we are doing, I am sure we

will make them happy. The

driving motivation for them

all is to play for England.

They're not in it primarily for

money."

Gloucester, Gloucester, run-

ners-up in last season's final,

play at Broughton Park at

King's Head, and Wasps, the

league champions, travel to

West Hartlepool. High Wy-

combe's reward for overcoming

Lydney away from home is a

game with Moseley, while

Harrogate, who disposed of

Bedford 16-0 on Saturday, must

meet Northampton.

DRAW: Rugby (London Welsh, Sheffiel-

v. Exeter, Harlequins v. Clinton; High

Wycombe v. Northampton; North-

ampton v. London Scottish; Gloucester v.

Broughton Park; Richmond v. Liverpool St.

Hebburn; London Irish v. Sale; Bristol v.

Worcester; Harlequins v. Worcester; Bath v.

Leicester; West Hartlepool v. Wasps;

Great v. Spartans. (Trios to be played on

November 24.)

Bath will hope to have Da-

men Cronin fit for both

games. Ankle and groin injuries

from Scotland's side against

Argentina this weekend.

Orrell, possibly the most dan-

gerous floater, particularly when

drawn at home, must play

Spartans, the junior club from

the Old Boys.

It will be quite a week for the

two clubs, who contested the

1989 final, which Bath won.

They meet in the Courage Clubs

Championship at Leicester on

November 17, and in the cup at

the Recreation Ground seven

days later.

It is the first time that the

third round has been so early

in the season, but Clive Howard,

Bath's secretary, welcomed the

prospect of playing in reasonable

conditions. Bath's

capacity of 8,310 and it will be

an all-ticket match.

Bath and Leicester to clash in cup

By DAVID HANNS

A SOMEWHAT mundane Pil-

grimage Cup third-round draw

at Wiganham yesterday

overshadowed by the debate on

amateurism and the echoes of

the England-Argentina match

last weekend — came suddenly to

life when the fourteenth game

became known.

Michael Pearcy, the president

of the Rugby Football Union

drawn Bath, the cup holders, for a

home tie, and then produced

Leicester from the bag. So, in the

first round involving the first

division clubs, one of the giants of

the cup competition is

doomed to fall.

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conditions. Bath's

capacity of 8,310 and it will be

an all-ticket match.

Bath and Leicester to clash in cup

By DAVID HANNS

Gloucester, Gloucester, run-

ners-up in last season's final,

play at Broughton Park at

King's Head, and Wasps, the

league champions, travel to

West Hartlepool. High Wy-

combe's reward for overcoming

Lydney away from home is a

game with Moseley, while

Harrogate, who disposed of

Bedford 16-0 on Saturday, must

meet Northampton.

DRAW: Rugby (London Welsh, Sheffiel-

v. Exeter, Harlequins v. Clinton; High

Wycombe v. Northampton; North-

ampton v. London Scottish; Gloucester v.

Broughton Park; Richmond v. Liverpool St.

Hebburn; London Irish v. Sale; Bristol v.

Worcester; Harlequins v. Worcester; Bath v.

Leicester; West Hartlepool v. Wasps;

Great v. Spartans. (Trios to be played on

November 24.)

Bath will hope to have Da-

men Cronin fit for both

games. Ankle and groin injuries

from Scotland's side against

Argentina this weekend.

Orrell, possibly the most dan-

gerous floater, particularly when

drawn at home, must play

Spartans, the junior club from

the Old Boys.

It will be quite a week for the

two clubs, who contested the

1989 final, which Bath won.

They meet in the Courage Clubs

Championship at Leicester on

November 17, and in the cup at

the Recreation Ground seven

days later.

It is the first time that the

## FOOTBALL

# Daley's fitness lifts Villa's spirits for return against Inter

By CHRIS MOORE

ASTON Villa last night received the encouragement both they, and English football in general, were hoping for with the confirmation that Tony Daley, their fleet-footed winger, will be fit for tomorrow night's UEFA Cup return leg with Inter Milan in the San Siro stadium.

It was Daley's explosive pace as much as anything which unsettled the Italians in Birmingham two weeks ago when Villa earned the admiration of the nation for their accomplished 2-0 victory.

It would have been a big blow to them had the ankle injury Daley sustained at Chelsea on Saturday — when he had to be substituted in the second half — kept him out of the second leg. But after a

fitness test yesterday, Daley declared himself fit and "raring to go".

"This is one game I had no intention of missing," he said. "I was a bit concerned about the injury over the weekend. But I did the right thing in coming off straight away without aggravating it further."

Villa, however, still have a doubt over the fitness of their captain, Stuart Gray who missed the game at Stamford Bridge, though he is optimistic of coming through a late fitness test in Milan. Despite the cushion of a two-goal advantage, Jozef Venglos, the Villa manager, insists that Inter are still "slight" favourites to go through.

He has made it clear that Villa will not set out merely to win the first leg through suspension.

"He could come in for Fausto Pizzini or Paolo Stringara, or maybe they will decide to play a complete attacking side. The only certainty is that both teams will play with heart and full concentration. What we must not allow them is too much space, especially in midfield."

Now does Venglos know quite what to expect from Lothar Matthäus. "It was not just a case of us forcing Matthäus into deep positions in the first leg because if he goes back, Berti, Bergomi or Battiati automatically come through. But we know that Matthäus will very much want to influence the tie more than he did at Villa Park."

● Graham Taylor, the England manager, last night paid his own tribute to Jozef Venglos, his successor at Aston Villa, whom he will present with the Barclays Manager of the Month award for October before the start of tomorrow's tie in Milan.

"People hardly talk about me now at Villa Park and that is the best tribute of all to the job Joe has done this season," Taylor said.

## Wilson recalled to Bingham's squad

THE Chelsea forward, Kevin Wilson, returns to the Northern Ireland squad for the European championship group four qualifying game against Austria in Vienna on November 14. Wilson, who missed the 1-1 draw with Denmark last month because of a broken finger, replaces Colin Hill, who has a hamstring injury.

The manager, Billy Bingham, has reduced his squad from 18 to 17, and Hill would probably have been omitted anyway to make way for Wilson, who scored against Norway and Uruguay last season.

The Northern forward, Stephen McManus, has been released, which means he must withdraw from the Irish League side which meets the Football League at Windsor Park, Belfast, 24 hours earlier. The Everton midfield player, Norman Whitehead, and Michael O'Neill, of Dundee United, are still missing as they recover from injury.

"I am carefully monitoring the position with them and they remain part of the Irish set-up," Bingham said. "He has been satisfied with the team's recent

performances but his hopes of qualifying for the 1992 finals are remote, with only one team going through."

SQUADS: P Keen (Oxford United), A McLaughlin (West Ham United), D Murphy (Birmingham City), D Naylor (Queen's Park Rangers), G Taggart (Brentford), N Waddington (Sheffield Wednesday), S Ashton (Sheffield United), R Dennis (Wolverhampton Wanderers), D Wilson (Sheffield Wednesday), R Wilson (Sheffield Wednesday), S Wilson (Sheffield Wednesday), C Lunn (Luton Town), C O'Neill (Motherwell), S McHale (Glenavon), S Morris (Arsenal), J Negut (Oxford United), G Clarke (Portsmouth).

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They replace the Manchester United forward, Mark Hughes, who has a torn muscle, and Glyn Hodges, of Wimbleton, who has an ankle injury.

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# SPORT

## Gallacher offered his resignation to save Ryder Cup

By MITCHELL PLATTS  
 GOLF CORRESPONDENT

BERNARD Gallacher yesterday revealed that he had offered his resignation as captain of Europe's next Ryder Cup team in an attempt to end the bitter dispute that still threatens the future of the biennial match against the United States.

Gallacher, appointed successor to Tony Jacklin, made his dramatic disclosure on a day when Johnnie Walker announced a £4 million, four-year sponsorship package to include the matches at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, in 1991 and at The Belfry in 1993.

"I offered my resignation to one side in the hope that it might help

because all I wish is for the match to go ahead and to be played in the correct spirit," Gallacher said.

In fact, Gallacher's offer was not accepted, but the wrangle between the PGA European Tour and the Professional Golfers' Association continues. A contract between them on the organisation of the match has still to be signed. The PGA European Tour will advise their players that no tournament will carry Ryder Cup qualifying points until it has been.

Ken Schofield, executive director of the PGA European Tour, was outraged that the PGA had inserted at the eleventh hour a clause limiting the agreement to 12 years and John Lindsey, the PGA executive director, is equally

concerned that in the case of there being "deadlock" on any dispute that the Ryder Cup will be "killed" for four years.

Lindsey would like to go to arbitration. "I would suggest the secretary of the Royal and Ancient or the Lord Chief Justice," Lindsey said. "The Tour has rejected using an independent figure although I still believe it would provide a sensible solution."

Gallacher, visibly emotional, said: "It's been the worst year of my life. Instead of enjoying the honeymoon period of being captain, it's been a nightmare. I offered my resignation on the grounds that it might help heal the situation. I would certainly not have become captain if I had

known what was going to happen. And I do not believe any captain should ever be put through this kind of thing in the future.

"My captaincy has been seriously hampered and undermined by this festering problem. We simply want a joint venture between the PGA European Tour and the PGA. We want the TV rights, we want the PGA to have the first £750,000 of surplus and we want the remainder split on a 50-50 basis.

"That is the proposal the PGA had from us, and returned to us, but somewhere between 12.15 last Friday and 9.00 this morning the PGA has managed to concoct a 12-year limit. Well, it takes more than a Cup to make a Ryder Cup.

It takes a sponsor like Johnnie Walker and it takes players whom I've tried to shelter from this problem which, I might add, my predecessor, Tony Jacklin, did not have. It is a pity that I have not been able to settle down like Tony to become wholeheartedly involved in making the arrangements which will best help us retain the Cup."

Schofield was given a clear mandate by his players at a meeting on September 4 to act in their best interest and unless the PGA has a change of heart regarding their demand for a 12-year limit then it is understood that Neil Coles, who is due to chair the next Ryder Cup meeting at the end of the month, will not attend.

I understand that the PGA European Tour has consistently put forward a written proposal based on agreement reached around the table but that the PGA has consistently found reason to change the proposal. Lindsey stressed that he felt the golf supporter deserved an answer. "I hope he has one soon," Lindsey said.

There can be little doubt, too, that Johnnie Walker will want an answer. If no agreement is reached and the top European golfers elect not to compete then Johnnie Walker could withdraw from the contract. Ian Ross, the chairman of John Walker and Sons Ltd, is confident that all will be well.



Gallacher: unsettled

## Lamb's heroics save England

PERTH (Agencies) — Allan Lamb's courage and Robin Smith's determination combined to help the England cricket team engineer a remarkable escape from defeat in Perth yesterday. Lamb, the vice-captain, having earlier ruled out any chance of batting again after fears that he had broken an arm, returned to the crease with his left elbow heavily bandaged and his side nine wickets down.

He proceeded to help Smith see out the final six-and-a-half overs as England salvaged a draw against Western Australia in the opening first-class fixture of their tour.

Lamb, who returned hurt in the morning after being hit on the point of the elbow by the left-arm fast bowler, Bruce Reid, had to negotiate 15 balls in all, including the last six of the match, bowled by Terry Alderman.

Smith, who finished unbeaten on 98, watched from the other end as his partner put bat to ball five times and allowed the other to pass harmlessly outside off stump.

It was an astonishing reprieve for England, who had looked doomed to a heavy and embarrassing defeat when they were 90 for six. At that stage, there were 54 overs remaining and it seemed only a matter of time before the tourists crumbled. But Smith, supported by the tail-enders, Gladstone Small, Angus Fraser and Devon Malcolm, and then the returning Lamb managed to survive.

Afterwards, Graham

Gooch, the England captain, said: "There are a lot of areas to work on — the work of batting, bowling and fielding. I'm very disappointed with our performance over the four days. We didn't play up to standard. You can make allowances because it was our first big game but I'm not one for making excuses."

"We were below par. The talent is there, we have to make sure it's working properly. There's no magic formula, we must just keep on trying to improve ourselves."

He added: "Getting a draw is a bit of a confidence-booster considering we didn't perform well."

Western Australia had only themselves to blame, however, for not registering their second victory in 23 meetings with England, dating back to 1907. For Smith, who batted for 282 minutes and struck 14 fours, was dropped by the wicketkeeper, Tim Zoehrer, off the bowling of Reid when only 35. Malcolm also escaped twice in the slips during his stand with Smith.

In all, Small (61 minutes), Fraser (65) and Malcolm (43) negotiated almost three hours against an attack that included three of Australia's best bowlers, Alderman, Reid and Chris Matthews.

England, having been set 373 to win in a minimum of 80 overs, soon realised that a grim struggle lay ahead as they were reduced to 30 for three with Reid removing Mike Atherton for three and David

Atherton for three and David

### SCOREBOARD FROM PERTH

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: First Innings 269 (G M Wood 103, K H MacLeay 53).	M A Atherton lbw b Reid 3 D J Gower lbw b Reid 10 A J Lamb not out 4 R J Smith not out 98 C C Matthews not out 98
Second Innings	T M Moody c Gower b Malcolm 4 C C Matthews not out 98
1st Innings Total 329	T M Moody c Gower b Malcolm 4 C C Matthews not out 98
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-195, 2-272, 3-272, 4-297.	
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BOWLING: Malcolm 22-6-54-1 (1nb); Lowe 11-5-58-1 (1nb); Smith 97-7-71-1; Lewis 18-17-70-1; Ashton 6-29-0.	
BOWLING: Alderman 17-6-49-3 (1nb); Reid 16-5-44-2 (2nb); Matthews 17-4-42-2; W S Andrew lbw b Small 10 17-4-42-2 (2nb); Matthews 16-5-44-2; Extras (b 17, no 5) 22.	
Total 4 wickets (22)	
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